



## NEWS IN BRIEF

**'Animal rights' gang shoot at police**

Armed police swooped on villages in Lincolnshire yesterday after shots were fired at officers pursuing men in a stolen car. A police helicopter with heat-seeking equipment was used in the hunt for possibly three men around the area of Laughterton.

Several villages were surrounded by officers after the Ford Escort, believed stolen from South Yorkshire, was found abandoned in a ditch, police said. The men were disturbed by two officers at 4am at a pig farm at Newton on Trent. After a high-speed chase along country lanes the car stopped at the village of Fenton and several shots were fired at the pursuing officers. The men continued their getaway and the car was found abandoned in a ditch near the A156.

Police said it was not believed there was any terrorist connection and information indicated animal rights activists might be involved. Two pigs were found shot dead and a third was injured on the farm where the men were disturbed. The getaway car was almost submerged after crashing off an icy road into a water-filled dyke. "We are looking for two rather bedraggled young men who may be wet from being in that ditch," police said.

**Baby stories swap urged**

Two mothers whose babies were inadvertently swapped in a maternity ward would be helped if they could exchange stories about their infants' first few days of life, the National Childbirth Trust said. The mothers will need extensive personal counselling to overcome the trauma of being separated from their babies for 12 days after the incident at the Princess Anne maternity hospital in Southampton. Suzanne Dobson, director of the trust, said: "They will have to get to know their babies all over again."

**Childcare staff warning**

The government is to order greater care in choosing staff for children's homes, after a damning report showing councils are not thoroughly checking employees' backgrounds. A letter is to be sent to local authorities this week demanding an end to sloppy recruitment policies. Ministers are said to be disturbed by the findings of the Warner enquiry, set up after the Frank Beck scandal in Leicestershire, and published in full today. The 200-page report shows that only a handful of local authorities thoroughly vet staff.

**Irish on the move**

Many Irish families could leave Britain next year to return to their homeland under a government scheme that will pay council tenants up to £20,000 to move out of their homes. The aim is to release more accommodation for homeless families. Stan Quirke, director of the Irish Advisory Service in northwest London, said Irish immigrants were showing great interest in the house-purchase grant. "We staged a special conference recently and 1,000 people turned up, from which there were 450 enquiries."

**Details of wanted man**

Hampshire police have released details of a man they want to question in connection with an attack on a widower aged 80. Leonard Perkes has now gone to stay with his daughter at her home in Basingstoke after he was discharged from hospital. Police say the man is 5ft 9in in his mid to late 20s, and wore a cream padded coat zipped at the front. He had a long fringe parted on the left side with sideburns which came down to as far as his mouth and over his upper lip. He had a fatish face and wore blue jeans.



Guns on the street: an armed officer stands by as City of London police search a vehicle stopped at a checkpoint yesterday afternoon.

**Briton appeals over public flogging sentence for swearing**

By RAY CLANCY

A BRITISH hospital manager working in Saudi Arabia, who faces a medieval-style public flogging for swearing at his staff, is to appeal against the sentence imposed by a religious court.

David Brown, 32, was sentenced to 50 lashes with a bamboo cane despite apologising for his words during an argument at the King Khaled National Guard Hospital, 12 miles outside Jeddah. Last night, despite his plea for no publicity, he was at the centre of what could emerge as a big political dispute.

Officially the Foreign Office is saying that there will be no intervention as the matter

relates to internal laws in Saudi Arabia. But there were calls from Bob Cryer, Labour MP for Bradford South, for stronger representations to prevent "a barbaric medieval punishment" being inflicted for what appears to have been a trivial offence.

Mr Brown was discussing alleged irregularities connected with the stores department two weeks after taking up his post with the British-run hospital in February. According to another doctor who met Mr Brown during a visit to the hospital recently, it had been a minor affair and everyone was surprised when he was arrested by the religious police

and charged with defamation. Russell Hopkins, a surgeon at the University of Wales hospital and chairman of the Welsh branch of the British Medical Association, said yesterday that the swearing happened when Mr Brown was explaining to two Saudi staff members what others were saying about the department.

"He admits he said there were people out there who looked at the stores department as a lot of f\*\*\*ing idle bastards. He then said that was not the case. He didn't actually refer to any individuals. He spoke in a generic way about what people were alleging," Mr Russell said.

The two staff concerned complained about the incident and after an internal investigation Mr Brown apologised. "He understood the matter was at an end and was extremely surprised when he ended up in court," he added.

British consul staff and a local lawyer have assisted Mr Brown at three court hearings so far. A spokeswoman at the Foreign Office said that no further details would be given as Mr Brown had requested no publicity.

But Mr Cryer said there was no reason why more could not be done. "The Foreign Office

should make strong representations to halt this barbaric medieval punishment. If they follow their usual form they will do nothing, because they are prepared to accept medieval barbarity rather than

strategic trade relations."

It is not clear how much

pressure will be brought to bear on the Saudi authorities.

Appeals in the past by British citizens sentenced to floggings for breaking the strict Saudi alcohol laws have not succeeded.

It is likely that the consul

department will seek a private

meeting with officials and ask

that the whole matter be quietly dropped.

**Poll shows hint of economic optimism**

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE British public has become slightly less pessimistic about the economic outlook over the next year, though dissatisfaction with the government and with John Major as prime minister remains very high.

The latest Mori poll for Times Newspapers shows that the net balance expecting the economy to improve rather than get worse has shifted from -46 points at the end of October to -34 points now.

This follows the Autumn Statement in the middle of the month and is around the levels of August and September.

Mori also asked about people's Christmas spending plans. Just 18 per cent said they would spend more than last year, and 41 per cent less, with the balance saying they would spend the same.

The groups with the smallest

percentages saying they would

spend more were 45 to 54-year-olds, those living in

London and those with mortgages (despite the fall in interest rates).

By contrast, the groups with the highest proportions

planning to spend less than last year are 18 to 34-year-olds, those living in Scotland and northern England, council tenants and the single. In all cases, a larger proportion intend to spend less than last year.

These findings tie in with

voting intention figures which indicate a sharp fall in Tory support in recent months

among 33 to 54 year olds and in southern England. Conservative support now stands at 34 per cent, down a point on the month and down nine points since the April general election.

By contrast, the Labour party's rating has risen by two points on the month, and by 12 months since April, to 47 per cent. Liberal Democrat support, at 15 per cent, is three points lower than in April.

The rating of the government and of Mr Major has improved slightly, though only by comparison with the very low levels of a month earlier. The government's rating (satisfied less dissatisfied) -75 points previously. Mr Major's rating is -44 points, compared with -51 points.

John Smith has so far only

benefited to a limited extent from the government's troubles. His net favourable rating has slipped over the past month from +16 points to +12.

By contrast, Paddy Ashdown appears to have

suffered from his decision to

back the government over the big European debate in the Commons on November 4.

His rating has fallen from the -20 points of August to October period to +7 points.

By publicly disclosing that

armed officers are operating

in east London, the police

clearly intend to reassure the

public that efforts are being

made to defeat the bombers,

and will also hope to deter the

IRA from attempting to bring

more explosives into the capital.

The terrorists might, howev-

er, switch to provincial targets.

Superintendent Bob Keeble

said: "Terrorists have to move about and transfer their weapons from location to location. The presence of this type of roadblock should have a deterrent effect as they run a risk of being detected."

Scotland Yard said yesterday that 83 vehicles had been stopped in two nights of the

operation and three people

had been arrested for posse-

tion of cannabis. There were

no arrests or seizures in

relation to terrorist offences.

Similar tactics are used in

Northern Ireland, where last

year the Royal Ulster Con-

stabulary set up checkpoints

on main routes into Belfast

after a series of large car

ombs and hoax calls.

The problem for the secu-

rity forces, however, is that

such tactics involve a great

deal of manpower and may

irritate the public.



Smith: limited benefit from Major's troubles

Ashdown: standing with public has suffered

**Clinton denies snub to Major over Bush**

Continued from page 1  
1960s, had applied for British citizenship to avoid the draft during the Vietnam war. Nothing was found. Whitehall said the records were checked in response to questions from journalists, and not at the behest of the White House or the Republican party.

The government had been angling for a meeting with Mr Clinton during the prime minister's visit for the biannual US-EC summit, but sources said the two sides had agreed last Thursday to delay the meeting. That was two days before the story appeared.

Had Mr Clinton agreed to meet Mr Major, he would have come under intense pressure to see Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor and Ichiro Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, before his inauguration.

The arrival of several Conservative Central Office officials to help Mr Bush during the presidential campaign was widely reported in the American media, and they helped

the president hone his most potent attacks on Mr Clinton. Moreover, State Department officials were scouring their passport files for damaging information on Mr Clinton at about the same time that the Home Office was checking its archives. Sherman Funk, the department's inspector general, said that its staff and records had been improperly used in an attempt to influence the outcome of a presidential election. He is investigating whether the White House was involved.

Dr Cunningham said: "The consequence of this is that John Major has fouled up relations with the new US president. That's bad for Britain and the fact that he has fouled up is confirmed by the president-elect's refusal to meet him."

The focus of Mr Major's visit now will be the US-EC summit and a personal farewell to President Bush.

Peter Riddell, page 14

**Redundancy threat exaggerated by firms**

Continued from page 1  
weeks have lumped together firm plans to lay off relatively small numbers of workers immediately with hazy projections about the effects of labour-saving automation and corporate restructuring in the very long term. Interviews with accountants, company chairmen and City analysts affirm that corporate managers are under pressure to emphasise and at times exaggerate plans to cut employment, recognising that some of the job cuts announced may never transpire.

Corporate managers have been emphasising their redundancy plans for three reasons. First, according to several company chairmen, there is now a cult of management that equates sackings with effective management. Second, shareholders have been reading favourably to firms that announce redundancies. According to one City banker, companies that have had to cut or hold dividends are under particular

**Police put armed officers on roadblocks**

■ Belfast-style checkpoints are being deployed on the mainland to counter the IRA's bombing threat

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

ARMED police are operating random roadblocks across London in a high-profile offensive by Scotland Yard and the City of London police to combat the IRA's bombing campaign.

In a change of tactics, senior officers have publicly announced that task forces of 45 officers have stopped vehicles to question drivers on nearly 20 occasions in east London during the past two weeks.

But police said last night that the roadblocks would not become a permanent feature of the capital's roads and that the need for them was assessed on a day-to-day basis.

The offensive in east London, known as Operation Rolling Rock, is a significant extension of a strategy, developed in Northern Ireland, that has been deployed with little publicity around Westminster and the West End since the IRA mortar attack on 10 Downing Street in February 1991.

This weekend, officers from the City of London police set up a roadblock on Lower Thames Street, EC3, and intercepted traffic heading towards the West End. Armed officers wearing body armour questioned drivers and searched their vehicles. Black-clad firearms experts carrying Steyer semi-automatic carbines stood by in case of trouble.

A spokesman said that additional security cameras had been put on buildings and at key sites in the City.

Peter Turner, a computer installations manager from Lower Earley near Reading, Berkshire, said after being stopped: "I think it is good. I just hope that it will happen more. I have been in and out of Belfast, and the security there is a reassurance."

By publicly disclosing that

armed officers are operating

in east London, the police

clearly intend to reassure the

public that efforts are being

made to defeat the bombers,

and will also hope to deter the

IRA from attempting to bring

more explosives into the capital.

The terrorists might, howev-

er, switch to provincial targets.

Superintendent Bob Keeble

said: "Terrorists have to move

about and transfer their

weapons from location to

location. The presence of this

type of roadblock should have

a deterrent effect as they run a

risk of being detected."

Scotland Yard said yesterday that 83 vehicles had been stopped in two nights of the

operation and three people

had been arrested for posse-

tion of cannabis.

Presbyterian service will be in stark contrast to the pomp and ceremony of Westminster Abbey

## Discreet finale puts seal on an undercover relationship

BY ALAN HAMILTON

WHAT would otherwise have been an exceedingly discreet courtship between the Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence was blown out of the water at an early stage by the kind of mine that lurks beneath the keel of every undercover romance.

In April 1989, intimate letters from the commander to the princess were spirited from her briefcase into the eager hands of the tabloid press. Buckingham Palace was cornered into naming their author when it learned that the tabloids were about to name the wrong man. It was a moment of high embarrassment for all concerned: the princess was still nominally married to, and living with, Captain Mark Phillips, although in retrospect that union now appears to have been to all intents and purposes dead for some time.

Four months later, in announcing the legal separation

until the princess's divorce from Captain Phillips went through the courts earlier this year.

But discretion fights an uphill battle with the telephoto lens. The couple were spotted sailing in the princess's new yacht *Doubtful*, and it became known that the commander had been a guest at Balmoral and Sandringham, initially signs of test rather than approval.

Finally, a clear signal was hoisted. The commander escorted the princess to the Royal Caledonian Ball last spring and they allowed themselves to be photographed in the throes of an eightsome reel. The princess's expression, a happier one than she had worn in public for years, was a barely concealed coded announcement of her intentions.

The princess has found a discreet and private partner, but one who is said by friends to be deeper and more cerebral than Captain Phillips. The princess's well-deserved reputation for hard work has been seen in the past as an antidote to a first marriage which she found unfulfilling.

The couple are expected to live at Gatcombe Park, the house and estate bought by the Queen for £500,000 as a wedding present for her daughter in 1973, with its adjoining farm to give Captain Phillips an interest and a living. The princess will undoubtedly continue her active public life and Commander Laurence will act as her escort whenever the occasion demands. He is said to have an easy and happy relationship with the princess's two children, Peter, 15, and Zara, 11.

Her second wedding will be in stark contrast to her first. Instead of a glittering theatrical tableau in Westminster Abbey in 1973, televised around the world as a showpiece of British monarchical pomp and tradition, she will experience the sterner atmosphere of the Kirk. Crathie is a small, pleasant but plain country church in the Scottish presbyterian tradition that has no truck with frills, ornament or any whiff of idolatry.

The wedding will be private, with only 30 guests, and an expected media scrum around the door on the opposite side of the road. That it is happening at all is a significant milestone in the changing moral perceptions of the royal family and the nation. Rarely since Henry VIII has



A private romance: Commander Laurence, top right, endeared himself to the Queen, pictured yesterday, by his discretion. They will be married at Crathie Church, near Balmoral. The coded sign of the couple's intentions came at a Highland ball, left, last year

one so close to the throne divorced and remarried.

Edward VIII was obliged to abdicate in 1936 because the prime minister, Stanley Baldwin, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang, were firmly of the view that the populace would not countenance the twice-divorced Wallis Simpson as queen.

The view persisted into the 1950s when Princess Margaret fell deeply in love with the divorced royal equerry Group Captain Peter Townsend. Again, the guardians of public morality pronounced it unthinkable that the queen's sister should take a tainted husband.

Morality, however, is not entirely dead and buried. The Church of England officially still frowns on marrying divorced persons, although many an individual parish priest is happy to do so. The problem for the princess is that her mother is the church's supreme governor, and for next Saturday's ceremony to

have taken place under the Anglican rite, with the supreme governor in the front pew, would have looked too much like a seal of approval.

No such difficulty troubles the Church of Scotland. Blessed with having no episcopal hierarchy to trim the sails of its ministers, it has for years taken a more liberal approach to second marriages and tends to leave the decision to the discretion of individual clergy.

An alternative for the princess and Commander Laurence would have been a civil ceremony, but only north of the border. The Royal Marriages Act of 1772 debars a child of the sovereign from a civil wedding, as does a piece of Victorian legislation which forbids any member of the royal family from marrying in a register office in England and Wales. The clause was inserted, apparently, because no one ever dreamt that a royal personage could conceivably want to do such a thing.

When Prince Michael of Kent married Marie Christine von Reibnitz, a Roman Catholic divorcee, their union was sealed at a civil ceremony in Vienna. They subsequently had an informal blessing from the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume. The

prince, by marrying a Catholic, lost his admittedly lowly place in line of succession. The Princess Royal, currently eighth in line, will not.

Scotland is another country where the law relating to civil marriages is distinctly different. In 1988, the Earl of St Andrews, eldest son of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, married Sylvana Tomasselli, another Catholic divorcee, at a register office in Edinburgh to circumvent the strictures of English church and law.

Leading article, page 15

of the princess and Captain Phillips, the palace was at pains to stress that the decision had been taken well before the discovery of the *billlets doux*.

Commander Laurence, a single, presentable, well-mannered, career naval officer with excellent promotion prospects, came to the notice of the princess when he was posted to Buckingham Palace in 1986 as an equerry to the Queen, a position filled in rotation by officers from all three armed services. He assumed a high profile in the job after the death of another equerry, Major Hugh Lindsay, in an avalanche while skiing with the Prince of Wales at Klosters.

In 1989, he returned to more mundane naval duties, eventually gaining his first command of HMS *Borer*. He has since, in the normal cycle of service life, been posted ashore to a desk job at the defence ministry in London.

Since the unfortunate affair of the stolen letters, Commander Laurence has conducted himself with commendable discretion, a fact that will have endeared him to the Queen. Reporters who knocked on the door of his modest terraced house in Winchester, Hampshire, were given polite but firm "no comments". Decorum demanded that there be no public display of a relationship



Phillips confounded his "Fog" nickname

## Break-up exacted heavy toll

MARK Phillips has faced rough times with remarkable dignity since the collapse of his marriage to the Princess Royal. The man the Windsors nicknamed Fog has shown himself neither thick nor wet, but a fighter determined to retrieve the good times.

Neither before nor since the divorce has he spoken

PHILLIPS

of his marital or money troubles, though the break-up and the recession took a severe toll. In April he sold his controlling stake in the Gleneagles equestrian centre in Scotland. Last year, sponsors withdrew from his British Open Horse Championships at Gatcombe Park because the princess was no longer associated.

Captain Phillips has worked hard carving out a living giving equestrian lecture tours and clinics.

## A miraculous but hard-earned transformation of image

BY TOM CORBY, FORMER PRESS ASSOCIATION COURT CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence must have gulfawed yesterday when they read some of the more sugary reportage of their forthcoming wedding.

The princess and her husband-to-be, who will marry at Crathie church close to Balmoral Castle, next Saturday, were doubtless equally amused by the suggestion that the second marriage of one of the most hard-working members of the royal family would be the salvation of the House of Windsor.

That it comes at the end of what the Queen described as her *annus horribilis* is a bonus for the headline writers, but the princess would have paid scant attention to the needs of the press corps in setting the date.

Practicality, as always, would have been her aim. She is carrying out official engagements in Edinburgh and Clackmannan on Friday, and that night the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh host a dinner for the heads of state and ministers attending the EC summit in Edinburgh. The Prince and Princess of Wales will also attend the dinner.

One can almost hear the Princess Royal saying: "The sensible thing would be for us to marry while you are all up there."

The 42-year-old princess has a love-hate relationship with the media, regarding it as a necessary intrusion which might, or might not, publicise her growing portfolio of charity work. Two years ago I travelled 7,500 miles across the former Soviet Union with her. The press party was sparse after Mos-

cow, two or three at most, and not once did we merit even "good morning" from the princess. Finally our over-sensitive little band got the message: she was there to work and so were we. Facile courtesies were therefore beside the point.

A few weeks later I interviewed her at Buckingham Palace about her involvement in Victim Support, which helps people who have been the target of crime, and the Butler Trust, an organisation concerned with the welfare of prison workers. She could not

have been more charming, or more forthcoming, punctuating our conversation with lots of good information... and at the end of a day when she had carried out four public engagements and was about to attend a fifth that evening.

The days of "Princess Naff Off" have long gone and the headlines now tend to proclaim her as "Princess Caring". If she cares at all about her press coverage, and all the indications are that she does not, I suspect she would find this other extreme epithet irritating.

Next to the Queen, the Princess Royal is statistically the most hard-working member of the royal family, undertaking as many as 50 public engagements a month. She has always believed that the royal should earn their keep and during 1991 carried out 332 engagements in Britain and 241 abroad.

The princess has visited more than 70 countries and

much of this travel has been as president of Save The Children since 1970. She is extremely well informed and obviously speaks with first-hand experience when advocating the charity's work.

It was through this role, without any prompting from her or her staff, that the princess's media rehabilitation began. At last newspapers woke up to her true worth. As she wryly commented on her return from her first marathons tour of eight countries in three weeks: "I did notice my miraculous transformation."

The princess is patron or president of 100 other organisations and her interest in them takes her all over Britain. In 1987, in recognition of her role, the Queen made her Princess Royal, a title held by only six previous British princesses, the last being Mary, Countess of Harewood, only daughter of King George V and Queen Mary.

I was in Buckingham Palace the day the announcement was made and asked, through the press office there, if the princess would comment. I cannot recall her exact response, only its laconicism.

Beneath her rather severe hair style, the princess is funny and warm when confronted face to face. She is also down to earth with an independent spirit, and I cannot imagine her second marriage changing her. She will not, I expect, reduce her workload and will continue the same quick-witted, sometimes sharp-public style we have become accustomed to. Would we now want her to be anything other than her real self?

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES SEND THEIR MESSAGE OF GREEK MACEDONIA

It is true that when ordinary people refer to Greek antiquity, they usually have in mind ancient cities that had played an important role in the growth of civilisation from prehistoric up to the classical period. Among them, Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Sparta, Olympia and other city-states of the southern part of Greece, the Aegean islands, Crete, Cyprus, west Asia Minor and even south of Italy, the very well known "Magna Graecia" are among the prevailing ones. On the contrary Macedonia's history comes into existence since the glorious reign of King Philip, his son Alexander the Great, and his generals who ruled over the remains of the late Persian empire, creating the very well known and so important Greek centers of civilization of Alexandria, Pergamon, Antioch of Mespotamia. Nevertheless, Macedonia's previous history remains quite obscure to common people.

However, archaeological excavations during the last twenty years brought to light hundreds of ancient Greek cities, temples, palaces, theaters and tombs, one of which is the famous tomb of King Philip, and treasures of an exquisite workmanship and design. Chronologically, they cover the most important periods of the Greek history from the Mycenaean up to the classical times. Their number increases in such a manner, that in the years to come, they will very probably exceed those of the southern part of the country, which was wrongly considered to constitute the main body of Greek antiquity. Therefore, when talking of ancient Greece, one must have in mind its northern part as well, i.e. Macedonia.

The bronze crater of Derveni

Amongst the most important finds are the bronze crater and several other bronze vases with an attractive golden appearance. They were discovered near Thessaloniki, capital of Macedonia in 1969. They are ascribed to the 4th century B.C., a period during which metal working technique in Greece had reached an amazingly high standard of perfection.

The large crater, a unique masterpiece of ancient Greek art and technology, has a 90 cm height, and an approximate mass of 40 kg. The base, the four statuettes, which lie on the crater's shoulder, and the two heavy handles are cast, while the whole main body with the fine relief decorations is forged.



Its golden colour, which led archaeologists to believe that it was gold plated, is due to an unusual high tin content (15%). It is surprising how ancient Greeks had shaped the hard copper - tin alloy into such a large vase and, what is more, they had decorated its main body with high relief decorations.

On the other hand, X-ray investigation led to the unexpected conclusion that this huge crater was from bottom to the middle of its neck a one piece vase. At this point exists the sole welding zone between the main body and the upper part of the crater. Just above the welding point some small size wild animals seem to walk on an irregular ground. In this way, the artist had successfully in hiding the rather rough welding.

Macro and micro examination and experimental work showed that the crater would have been produced by forging, while the smaller bronze vases either by forging, or on the lathe or, finally by a

combination of both. In fact, some of the small vases show signs of spinning on the lathe.

The above study has largely contributed to assessing the achievements realized by ancient Greeks in Macedonia during the 4th century B.C., and has led to the conclusion that throughout this period Greek art and technology had actually reached a climax of perfection and, what is more, Macedonia the new Greek super power that had succeeded Athens after its decline constituted part of the ancient Greek world and a continuation of its civilization.

Prof. Dr. George J. Varoufakis  
Head of the Research and Quality Control Department  
of HALYVOURGIKI INC.

HALYVOURGIKI INC.  
EASTERN GREECE - WESTERN ASIA MINOR - MACEDONIA

## Health chiefs protest over the hidden cost of GP fundholders



By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY doctors who hold their own hospital budgets have made huge savings in the first year of the fundholding scheme.

They are using the money to enhance their practices, while district health authorities are having to treat treatment of patients to save money.

The savings — up to £280,000 for one practice in East Anglia — will be an embarrassment to Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, who is to address the first national conference of GP

fundholders in Birmingham on Wednesday. She will have to answer charges that the GPs have been feather-bedded and are siphoning money from health authorities and non-fundholding GPs.

Critics say the fundholders are personally benefiting by using savings to extend the services which they own. One said: "If the aim is to improve the health of the nation rather than the health of a few this is not a sensible way to go about it."

Under the fundholding scheme, practices are allocated a budget with which to buy hospital services for their patients in the NHS

market and to pay for drugs and staff. Legally, any savings made belong to the practice but because of the huge sums involved regions are now negotiating for the return of some of the money.

"You can't plan services when a group of GPs have walked off with £500,000," one health authority manager said. Some health authorities are having to defer treatment of routine patients until after next April to avoid overspending.

In Wakefield, West Yorkshire, Dr Lulu Kamal and his five partners saved £192,000, or 13.5 per cent, on their budget of £1.42 million for 1991-2. Dr Kamal has

offered to pay £50,000 back to the regional health authority but intends to spend the rest on equipment, upgrading rooms, and building a £90,000 extension to the practice, which the partners own.

Most of the savings were achieved by bringing consultants out from the hospital seven miles away to run out-patient clinics in the surgery, avoiding high hospital charges. The result was made a huge saving and we have no waiting list in eight specialties," Dr Kamal said.

Dr Geoffrey Kremer said his six-partner practice in Bracknell, Berkshire, had saved £100,000, which

would be used to buy equipment, hire extra staff and pay for a £40,000 extension to the surgery. "If we work efficiently we use the same money to provide a better service," he said.

Bill Williams, manager of the North Brink practice in Norfolk, said the nine GPs had made a large saving on their £2.3 million budget but would not confirm that it was £280,000. "We are still in discussion with the region over how much we can agree is a saving," he said.

A survey published in *Fundholding* magazine shows that GPs have made big savings in almost every region. In South East

Thames the average saving among the 14 fundholding practices was £75,000. In East Anglia, six of the nine fundholders saved an average of £117,000 on their hospital budgets alone. In Oxford 21 of the 25 fundholders made savings ranging up to £111,000.

The health department said that there had been difficulties over pricing budgets in the first year and a more sophisticated system was being sought. Regions would be able to reduce budgets if there was clear evidence that the original figure was too generous. Many GPs had voluntarily returned savings to health authorities.

DENZIL MCNEILANCE

## Spending curb forces new round of schools cuts

■ School meals, grants and music teaching are under threat in Avon — the first of many counties preparing to make education cuts

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AVON will tomorrow become the first of many local authorities to cut education services for next year to meet government spending limits.

Overspending in the current year has already forced the county to review its education budget before it was notified of its grant for 1993-4. Now it may have to make savings of at least £15 million on a budget of £320 million.

Advisory teachers' posts have already been cut, and the cost of school meals raised from January. The next round of savings might include economies in special schools, restrictions on school transport and a sharp reduction in discretionary grants for further education. Field study centres and some music teach-

ing may also be lost.

John Main, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association's representative on the education committee, said: "Central services are being cut first because the savings can be made more quickly. But school budgets also look like facing 5 per cent cuts. That would mean the loss of up to 1,000 teachers' jobs and it is difficult to see how the figure could be less than 200."

The hung council is trying to lessen the impact by redeploying teachers but local management of schools means that governors are responsible for appointments, and transfers cannot be guaranteed. At the same time, the recession has increased the demand for services, with more pupils qualifying for free school meals and more staying in education beyond 16.

Avon's plight is likely to be repeated in many authorities. Grants for 1993-4 were even lower than local government officials feared, and the arrival of independence for further education colleges has caused extra difficulties. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities estimates that its members have lost £200 million more than they spent on the colleges in the transfer.

Harrow, in northwest London, for example, is to lose £17 million when its three further education colleges become independent next April, although they cost only £10 million to run. A cuts package that would close all the borough's nursery classes may cause a rebellion among Conservative councillors.

Neighbouring Barnet, also Conservative controlled, has calculated that to maintain existing services next year would cost £15.3 million more than the borough will be allowed to spend. Senior council officials called a meeting with teacher unions last week to warn them.

In a statement today, six unions said: "We earnestly hope there will be sufficient public pressure to ensure a review by the government of the rate support grant allocation.

Otherwise our borough, which has followed all the official guidelines and has a proud tradition of education,

will be forced to make draconian cuts in its services and accept a lowering in its standard of educational provision."

The government calculates that bolts of the wrong size had been used when a replacement window was installed after reports that it had cracked.

The outer pane, one of five in a sandwich of glass and plastic, suddenly cracked "like a spider's web", according to one passenger. Although there was no immediate danger, the pilot decided to return immediately to Birmingham where the aircraft landed safely. A passenger who was recovering from a recent heart attack received oxygen.

During the incident 18 months ago, Captain Tim Lancaster was dragged out of the plane's cockpit when the cockpit window blew out at 23,000ft en route to Malaga. He was saved by crew members hanging onto his legs.

Investigations disclosed that bolts of the wrong size had been used when a replacement window was installed after reports that it had cracked.

A BA spokesman said last night: "Although it was the same aeroplane, there is no connection between the two incidents."

Education Times, page 31



Scene setter: flakes from a snow machine falling in Rochester, Kent, yesterday for a Victorian weekend during which a car park was made into an ice-rink

## New chairman of the Bar plans free advice centres

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Bar is to create a national network of free advice centres for people pursuing claims before tribunals or in county courts who cannot get legal aid.

The scheme, which comes after the government's announcement of the biggest restrictions on legal aid eligibility in its 40-year history, is one of the main items on the agenda of the Bar chairman-elect, John Rowe QC, who will be head of the profession in 1993.

There are already so-called free representation units in London, Manchester and Wales but the work is largely handled by student barristers and confined to tribunals. It rarely involves QCs or barristers of experience, or court work.

Mr Rowe, who was the driving force behind the Manchester centre, envisages a big expansion of the scheme, first to cover county court, possibly through a duty lawyers' scheme, and, second, through use of established members of the profession.

He argues that every barrister should be prepared to take on one case a year for no charge.

"I am keen to see free representation and advice schemes set up throughout the country. Employment and welfare and immigration rights are of fundamental importance yet in the tribunals where these things are decided, ordinary people cannot get legal aid, and free representation is essential," Mr Rowe said.

The scheme is certain to

prompt criticism in some quarters that it will help the government to reduce public funds for legal services with impunity. But he denies the scheme would help underpin what should be a publicly funded service. "We have got to face the fact that legal aid is going to be limited, that there is not going to be an extension of legal aid to these cases if people are going without. I don't think the Bar should stand back and say we will just wait for the Lord Chancellor to extend legal aid. We should get on with doing something."

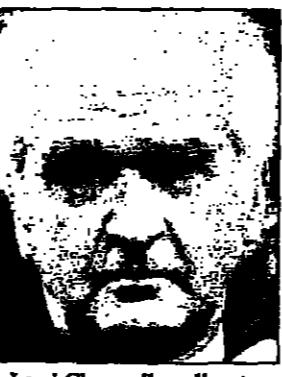
Mr Rowe, 56, leader of the northern circuit for the past four years, is regarded as being more conservative than his two predecessors, Lord Williams of Mostyn QC and Anthony Scrivener QC.

For example, he does not back the creation of a Judicial Appointments Commission in place of the present system of selecting judges. Nor does he believe that wigs should be discarded.

Mr Rowe, a popular choice who is well known for his jokes and mimicry, comes from a general practice where he has specialised in criminal fraud, personal injury and medical negligence. He is fond of French and German literature and church architecture.

During the next 12 months his aim is to help restore public confidence in the legal system.

"Costs and delays must be eliminated, miscarriages of justice must be eliminated. If criminal cases were coming on within weeks of committal and civil cases within a few months, and the system was in what I would call first-class condition, then we would not even be talking about discarding wigs."



Lord Chancellor: directs legal aid system

## Opt-out trusts may shun the over-50s

By JOHN YOUNG

TOUGHER guidelines are needed to prevent opt-out hospitals from refusing potentially life-saving treatment to the over-50s, a study published today says. Pensioners risk being told they are medically unsuitable for treatment by trusts eager to make a profit in the new market-style NHS.

Professor Grimley Evans, co-author of the report and head of geriatric medicine at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, says there is already evidence that older people are being denied help in some coronary care units. A recent survey of 175 units showed that one fifth had age-related admissions policies and two fifths had age limits on who should have clot-busting drugs.

The report also says that the increase in life expectancy has not been matched by a proportionate decline in ill health and disability. Appropriate exercise can delay or reverse physical decline and restore fitness among older people.

The study is the ninth and last in a series undertaken by the Carnegie UK Trust into what it calls the "third age". Final conclusions and recommendations based on all nine units will be presented to a conference in London next April.

The trust divides the human lifespan into four stages: childhood and schooling; work and raising a family; active independence; and old age, in which people become frail and dependent on others. Because of a declining birthrate, earlier retirement and a longer

lifespan, Britain and other countries have a larger proportion in the third category than ever before.

The final report is certain to emphasise that the nation cannot afford to allow so many people in the "third age" to leave their main jobs and go into retirement when they could look forward to new part-time, flexible and enjoyable careers. But if they are to fulfil their potential they must pay more attention to their health.

The study suggests that it is time to bury the prevalent pessimistic view that mental and physical functions decline inexorably with age, and that ageing is exclusively genetically determined. Psychological deterioration with age is not inevitable, and is often more than compensated for by knowledge and experience. Most people in the third age are still functioning at or near their peak.

However, in spite of increased awareness of the importance of being physically fit, only 34 per cent of those aged between 55 and 64, and 23 per cent of those between 65 and 74, take enough exercise to maintain their functional independence.

Even fewer take enough exercise to protect them against heart disease.

The Department of Health said that it would regard as unacceptable for treatment to be denied on the grounds of a patient's age alone. Clinical priority was, however, a matter for professional judgment, a spokesman said.

A girl's best friend is her name

By KATE ALDERSON

WALTER, Prince of Softies, the character from the *Beano* comic who was bullied by Dennis the Menace, is a victim of the stereotypes associated with people's names. Walters are apparently no less manly than Davids and Johns.

Boys are apparently unaffected by their names, but research by Helen Petrie, a psychologist, shows that the future personality of a girl could be determined by the name she is given at birth. Diana and Lucy develop into more feminine women, while Maureen and Ellen are more likely to be tomboys.

The *Name Game*, a BBC Radio 5 programme to be broadcast today, examines the fashions in names, whether they can determine masculinity or femininity or if the choice of an unusual name can hinder a person's life.

"Having a name that's out of the ordinary is quite an advantage," Ms Petrie said. "It makes people feel special; you're easy to remember and not likely to be confused with anyone else. It seems to be a positive thing."

John Walters, the television and radio presenter, says that an unusual name can be cruel. "Cyril Shepherd's got a child called Ariel — is she going to call her next one Daz?"

My colleague John Peel called his first two children Anfield and the next two Dalglish and Shankly. Luckily, they're only middle names.

Leslie Dunkling, who has been compiling lists of the most popular names for many years from the Register of Births, has found that Daniel, Matthew, James, Christopher and Adam are the most popular boys' names. Emma, Sarah, Laura, Charlotte and Amy are the most favoured girls' names, with Rebecca increasing in popularity.

## Asterix's asteroid hurtles towards a near miss

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

AN asteroid about two miles in diameter will pass by the Earth tomorrow. Toutatis, named after a god of ancient Gaul often called upon by the cartoon hero Asterix, is expected to come as close to the Earth as any asteroid for the rest of this century.

Astronomers say there is no danger of a collision, and are taking the opportunity to study Toutatis, using the £2 billion orbiting Hubble space telescope and radar signals from radio telescopes.

The asteroid is the largest object to cross Earth's orbit on a regular basis

but, if the scientists' calculations are right, it will miss us by a full two million miles, so there is no need to hide under the table. Its elliptical orbit takes it out almost to the orbit of Jupiter before swinging back every four years to pass close to the Sun. The proximity to Earth varies on each pass; in 2004 Toutatis is expected to come even closer, within a million miles of Earth.

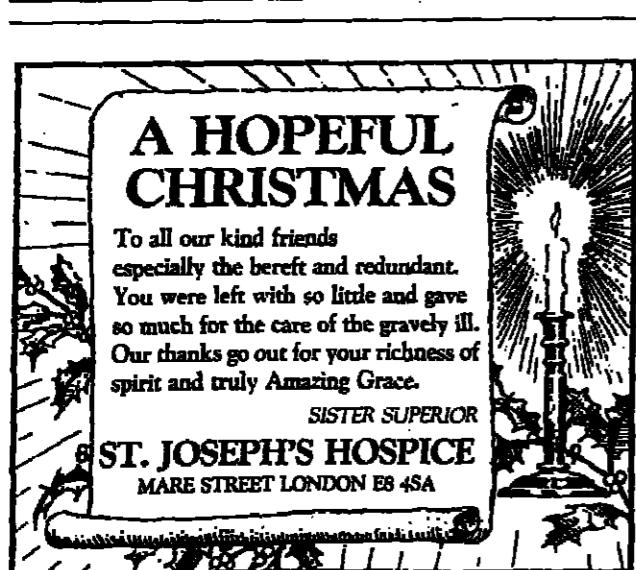
The asteroid is far too small to be seen with the naked eye, though amateur astronomers with small telescopes should be able to pick it out just below the constellation of Leo. Using the Hubble, scientists at the Space Telescope Sciences Institute

hope to make out the shape of Toutatis, while ground-based instruments will see only a point of light.

The best images may come from radar mapping which ought to be able to pick out details 160 metres across. Using radar signals sent out by the Goldstone antenna in California and picked up by the 27-dish Very Large Array in New Mexico, Steven Ostro and colleagues from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California hope to establish the asteroid's shape, how fast it is spinning, and some surface details.

Toutatis was discovered in 1989 by the French astronomer Christian Pollas and named after the Gallic deity known as "protector of the tribe". In fact, it had been sighted once before, in 1934, but then lost. When it was rediscovered, astronomers were able to show that it was the largest of the 20 or so asteroids which cross the Earth's orbit.

Coincidentally another object will pass much closer to the Earth tomorrow: the satellite Galileo, which will swoop to within 220 miles of the Earth, almost touching the atmosphere, to gain momentum for its flight to Jupiter. Galileo was launched in 1989 and has already made passes of the Earth and Venus in its long flight to Jupiter, where it is expected on December 7 1993.



## Drink takes a high toll on the midnight ramblers

■ People are finally getting the message not to drink and drive, but walking home after a night at the pub can also prove fatal

BY ELAINE FOGG

ANNUAL publicity campaigns have done much to spotlight the perils of drink-driving. However, they have yet to address a growing menace highlighted in a new government report — the drunken walker.

Inebriated pedestrians, including a large proportion who stagger home to avoid a drink-driving offence, could put themselves, and others, in danger this Christmas according to a report by the government's Transport Research Laboratory.

Of those pedestrians killed between the hours of 10pm and midnight last year, four out of five had been drinking and two thirds were over the legal limit for driving. A total of 460 pedestrians above the drink-drive limit were killed across the country, says the report, which gained its data from police and hospital records.

Danny Daniels, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said: "People are finally getting the message to leave their cars at home when they drink. But deciding to walk instead can prove fatal if they are drunk."

Whatever dangers are posed by the walking drunk, it is still the drunken driver who causes the greatest potential risk to life. A spokesman for the transport department said yesterday: "Drunken pedestrians can cause problems. It is the extent of that problem that we are looking at in the report."

He said the department had no plans to target intoxicated walkers with commercials. "We are still urging drivers to leave their cars at home if they plan to drink. Drunk drivers have the greatest potential for causing loss of life on the roads," he said.

A television commercial, thought to be the toughest used so far, will be broadcast for the first time tonight. It will spearhead the annual anti-drink-drive campaign, which will be launched today by Kenneth Carlisle, the roads and traffic minister. The campaign is, once again, being



Message in a bottle: alcohol ruins lives

### Bus firm sues over numbers

By PAUL WILKINSON

IN THE cut-throat world of deregulated bus services, even the number on the front of the vehicle can be the basis for a battle between rival operators. A dispute in South Yorkshire over the right to route numbers is expected to end in the High Court sometime next summer.

The South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive is suing four private operators, claiming that they are stealing its passengers by using the same route numbers as the executive's buses.

"It all comes down to whether the numbers on the buses are the trademark of the operator," Richard Boardman, the Leeds solicitor handling the action, said. "There was no problem before deregulation. A No 9 bus went where a No 9 bus always went, but now anyone can buy a second-hand bus, stick No 9 on it and go where they want."

The executive has already been granted an interim injunction covering 11 of its routes. It wants a permanent ban.

### 999 merger 'would help efficiency'

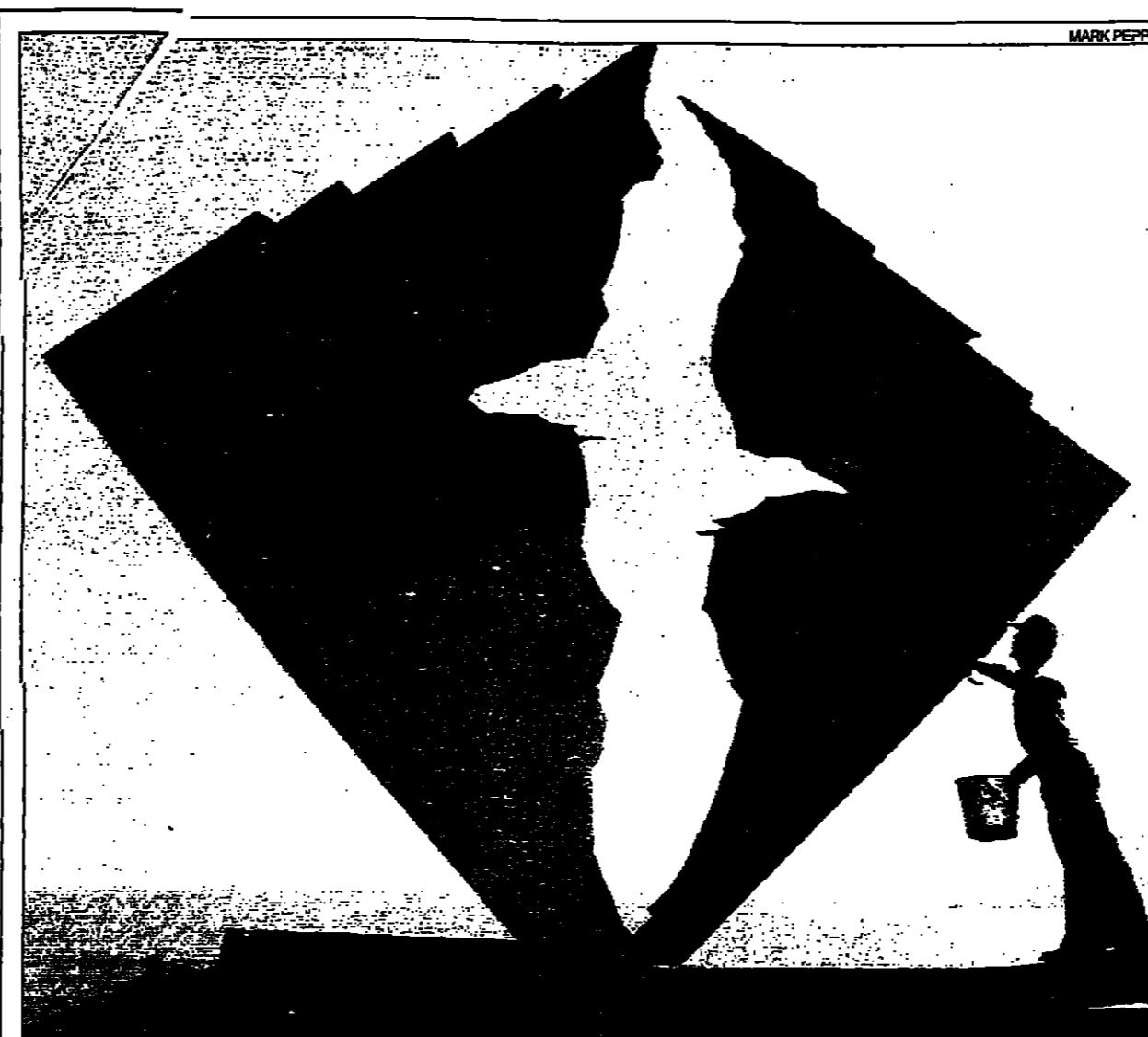
By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE three emergency services should be merged into one organisation to cut costs and improve efficiency, according to a report published today by a right-wing think-tank.

The overhaul is required because the police, fire and ambulance 999 services are out of date and need to be modernised to face the challenges of the next century, said the study. A joint emergency control centre would eliminate delay and inaccuracy caused by having separate command centres for each service in each area. Individual control centres for police, fire and ambulance 999 services would be replaced by a system in which all emergency calls would be handled by one unit.

At present, a caller dialling 999 is connected to the BT emergency switchboard, and then asked which service is needed before being connected to the police, fire or ambulance control room. The report says the existing system is out of date and is a result of the failure of politicians to accept the need for change.

999 Emergency (The Adam Smith Institute, 23 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BL, £15)



Ready for launch: Emilio Alarcon, Cape Horn lighthouse keeper, putting final touches to the memorial

## Cape Horn sailors honour comrades

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL AT CAPE HORN

A GROUP of Cape Horn veterans from around the world revisited the cape during the weekend to inaugurate a memorial to the hundreds of seamen who have died there over the centuries. Led by Captain Jean Perdrat, president of the Cape Horners' Association, they stepped ashore for the first time on the island they had feared most in their seafaring days.

The memorial, a 20ft multi-layered steel sculpture, is set on a hill close to the 1,000ft headland that marks the southern limit of the American continent. It depicts an albatross gliding over the southern ocean. Designed by José Balcero Eyzquem, professor of architecture at the University of Valparaíso, it was one of 37 designs submitted by sculptors for a competition judged by the Chilean navy.

Many of those present found it hard to believe the sunny, warm conditions at the cape which had allowed the ten British Steel Challenge yachts to round the Horn safely last week, en route for Tasmania. "I'm glad my family are not here. I've been boring them for 43

years with tales of our fight to round this cape against mountainous seas and they would never believe me again," Bob Russell, from Australia, said.

Admiral Bruno Greene, who captained the Chilean navy's sail training ship *Esmeralda* around the world in 1988, said: "The day we sailed round began very much like this, but, within three hours, the winds had built up to 83 knots. Every sail was torn and many of the wooden hoops holding them to the mast broke away. It was a horrific experience."

"These conditions are freak," one old Cape Horn said. "I have looked up our statistics for December and it says there is only a 1 per cent chance of calms. It is normally blowing a full gale here."

The Cape Horners' Association, based in St Malo, France, is open only to those who have rounded the Horn under sail in a commercial ship. "We are a dying breed," Mr Russell said. "Two years ago we were 700-strong. Now membership is down to about 400."

British Steel Challenge page 20

# FIX YOUR MORTGAGE AND RELAX.



Cushion yourself from any future fluctuations in the mortgage rate with a fixed rate mortgage from the Halifax.

As you can see by the table, we offer you a choice of highly attractive rates fixed for a term of either five or seven years.

Whichever one you choose, you'll have

#### FIXED MORTGAGE RATES

8.65% 9.0% APR

FIXED UNTIL 31 JANUARY, 1998

8.99% 9.3% APR

FIXED UNTIL 31 JANUARY, 2000

**HALIFAX**

Get a little extra help.

the reassurance of knowing exactly how much you'll be paying in the coming years.

As you can appreciate, these offers won't sit around for long, so call in for a chat today.

You'll soon be sitting pretty with a fixed rate mortgage from the Halifax.

RATES QUOTED ARE VARIABLE AFTER THE DATES SHOWN. ANY HOME LOAN MUST BE SECURED BY A MORTGAGE. ALL LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. A MORTGAGE INDEMNITY PREMIUM IS CHARGED. RATES APPLY DURING THE FIXED RATE PERIOD. FIVE YEARS - 9 GROSS MONTHLY PAYMENTS IF REPAY BEFORE 29.2.94; 4 GROSS MONTHLY PAYMENTS IF REPAY BEFORE 26.2.95; 3 GROSS MONTHLY PAYMENTS IF REPAY THEREAFTER. SEVEN YEARS - 6 GROSS MONTHLY PAYMENTS IF REPAY BEFORE 31.1.97; 3 GROSS MONTHLY PAYMENTS IF REPAY THEREAFTER. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM YOUR LOCAL OFFICE OR HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE, HG1 2RG.

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

Rainbow trout firms dispute impact of American invader on British species

## Anglers sue fish farm over ones that got away

■ Legal minds will today consider whether an escape of rainbow trout condemned other fish to a watery grave

By MICHAEL HORNBY  
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL history will be made at Swindon County Court today when angling devotees of the native wild brown trout seek thousands of pounds in damages for the alleged invasion of a fishery by hand-reared rainbow trout.

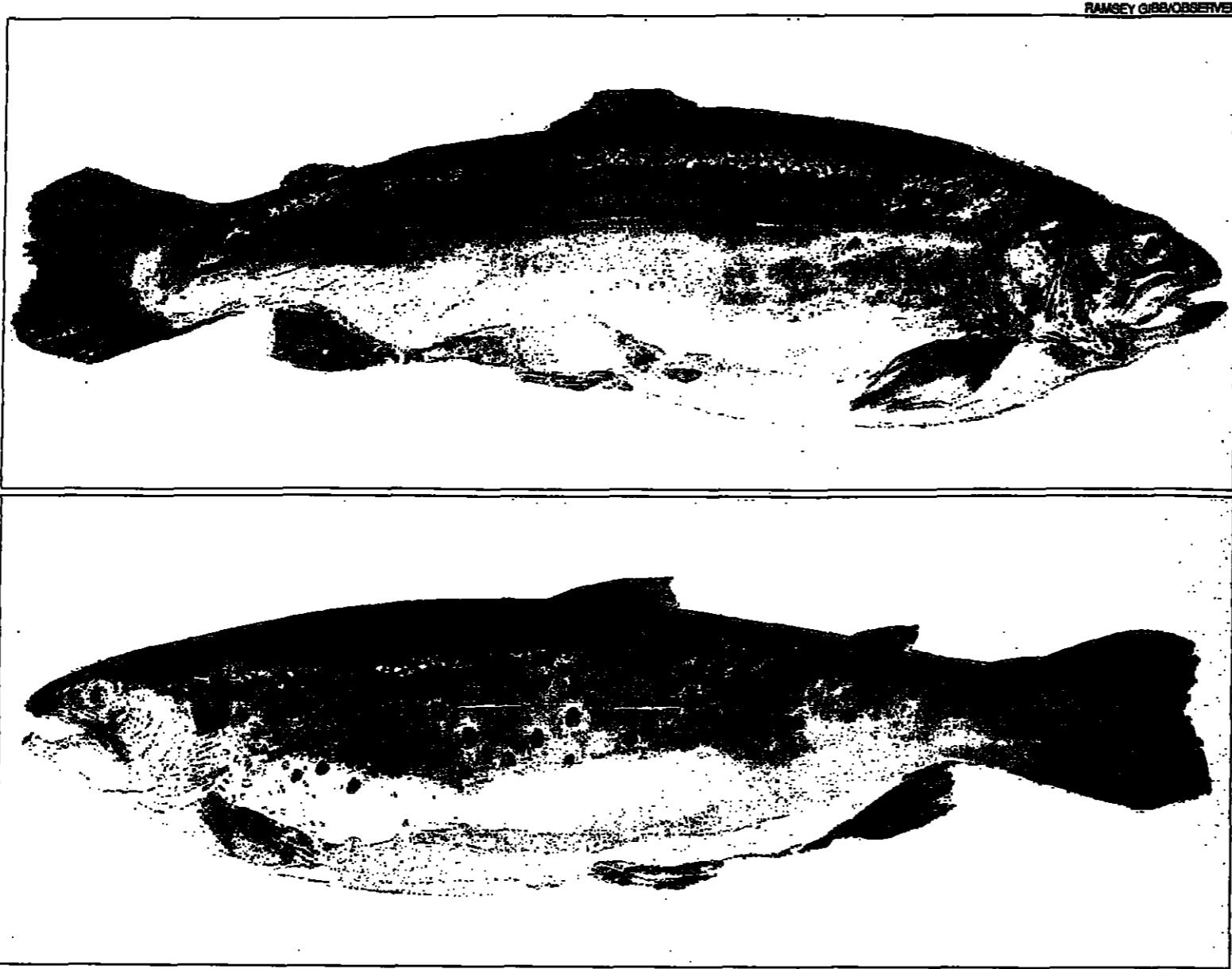
Anglers, conservationists and commercial fish-breeders will be watching the case with interest. The Anglers Co-operative Association, which is bringing the case, hopes to establish the principle that owners of trout farms should be liable for rainbow trout that escape from rearing ponds into adjacent rivers.

Fishery owners and angling clubs that charge high prices for top-class brown trout fishing complain that the escapers gobble up the browns' food, driving them away from carefully managed spawning grounds.

The farm-bred rainbow is also much easier to catch as it scares less easily. Allen Edwards, director of the association, said: "People who have paid a lot of money to catch browns are not at all pleased when they find they are pulling in 3in or 4in rainbows with every cast."

Mr Edwards believes that some mass escapes of farmed fish are not accidental. "We suspect, though cannot prove it, that with overproduction and recession hitting wholesale prices some fish farmers find it cheaper to release large numbers of young fish than to feed them to full weight."

Such allegations are dismissed as "pure nonsense" by Nick Yonge, chairman of the British Trout Association, whose 120 members represent about 70 per cent of



Fish foes: the rainbow trout, above, provides anglers with a big catch but is said to drive away the more retiring brown, below

farmed trout production. He insisted that escapes were rare and always accidental and that farmers made every effort to prevent them.

Mr Yonge also claimed that the ecological impact of the release of rainbow trout was short-lived because the fish, introduced to Britain from North America during the 19th century, rarely breed in the wild and had only occasionally managed to establish

populations that were self-sustaining.

The county court case involves a trout farm near Marlborough, Wiltshire, which is alleged to have allowed thousands of rainbows to escape in 1990 into a stretch of the river Kennet managed for brown trout fishing.

The Anglers Co-operative Association is seeking £10,500 damages on behalf of Savernake Fly fishery.

which claims that 40 per cent of the 1990 season was spoilt by the rainbow invasion. The trout farm has since ceased trading but the case is being defended by the insurer.

If it wins the case, the association intends to pursue cases against two other trout farms on the river Nidd near Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Although discerning anglers may object to the introduction of rainbows, the stocking

of rivers and still waters with fish has been policy for years and is permitted by the National Rivers Authority. Escapers are only a small proportion of the rainbow population.

Dr Nick Giles, head of wetlands research at The Game Conservancy, said: "The truth is that most anglers are much more interested in taking home a big bag of hatchery fish than in catching and releasing wild fish.

Almost all English rivers are now stocked with hatchery trout, both browns and rainbows."

Robin Ade, a writer on trout fishing, said: "Personally, I do not like catching rainbows. I would much rather catch a fish with 10,000 years of history going back to the last Ice Age. But I do not see any danger of the brown being displaced."

BR rental row hits Heathrow rail link

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

A DISPUTE over British Rail's demand for a £6 million a year "track fee" along 11 miles of track between Paddington and West Drayton is putting in jeopardy the opening of a new £300 million high-speed rail link to Heathrow airport.

The stalemate has led to frustration among airlines and fears that it could set a precedent which could affect the long-term success of rail privatisation.

BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, agreed two years ago to put up 80 per cent of the £300 million cost of improving the line, buying new rolling stock and building new stations. BR agreed to fund the rest.

A bill enabling work to begin was passed by Parliament and BAA spent £20 million on trial tunnels and design work, which should have led to the track opening in spring 1997. But plans were thrown into confusion after the announcement of BR's privatisation, leading to the argument over payments for private use of BR track.

BR said that it could no longer afford its share of the building cost and BAA was forced to seek private investment.

BAA has said it is ready to start work immediately, but unless the track fee is reduced drastically and agreement reached on maintaining the section of BR track, the service will never be made to pay.

Continued funding by local authorities of public transport, particularly railways, is essential to keep cars off the roads and maintain the quality of life in Britain, a report published today claims.

The report, *Signals for a Better Future*, says that the countryside is also under threat from increased road traffic, and although schemes undertaken with local authority help are impressive, their continued success depends on a "consistent and reliable financial regime".

73,000 lost from poll registers

More than 73,000 people have been lost from the electoral register in London in the past ten months, a survey issued today shows. Evasion of the poll tax is believed to be the main cause of the fall.

The biggest decreases are in the boroughs of Brent (down 20,566), Richmond (12,544) and Croydon (12,438), according to the Association of London Authorities survey. Research from Warwick University suggests that one in ten of Londoners eligible to vote does not register, largely in an attempt to avoid poll tax.

Steve Bullock, chairman of the association, said: "These figures are very worrying for the health of democracy in London. Every effort must be made to ensure that everyone who has the right to vote is registered to do so."

### Welsh jury veto

The new Welsh Language Act will not include the right to trial before a Welsh-speaking jury. David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, has ruled. He said that such a right would breach the principle of random selection of jurors.

### Taxing time

Timothy and Kirsty Buckland of Monmouth, Gwent, have been told that their home has been put in two separate council tax bands because it has two front doors. One half is in Band E, the other in Band D.

### Rare bird eaten

Hundreds of bird-watchers descended on South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, to see a rare barred warbler. By the time most arrived, it had been eaten by a cat.

### Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bond prize draw: £100,000, bond number 1FB 964666, from East Sussex, value of holding £1,249; £50,000, 24SS 378507, Essex (£856); £25,000, 18S2 519994, Devon (£125).

## AH, THE JOY OF THE OPEN CHEQUE BOOK. A SAAB FOR £13,995.

Some of the best things in life needn't cost a fantastic amount of money.

A beautiful day. Fresh air. A spectacular view.

An empty road. And a SAAB 900.

The ideal drive taken in the ideal driver's car should be an absolutely priceless experience.

But happily, it can be yours for under £14,000.

The price may sound basic for a SAAB, but the 900 looks and feels nothing of the sort.

(If along with everything else, electric mirrors and windows, ABS, a radio cassette and a sunroof can be classed as "basic", that's fine by us.)

But before you even consider the open cheque book, sample the joy of the open road.

Because a test drive in a 900 happens to be even more of a bargain than the 900 itself.

Just £10,000 from your nearest SAAB dealer. Please take one.

To SAAB Information Centre, Finsbury Way, London N10 9HN.

Please send me details of the:

900 series  900 GS series  900 CD series  Linea

Attach your business card or telephone 0800 655 0222.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Power Car Hatch & Model \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Reg. \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Model \_\_\_\_\_

SAAB

CAR SHOWN IN 3 DOOR AT £13,995. PRICE CORRECT AT PRE-DATE AND EXCLUDES DELIVERY, VAT, INC. VAT, ROAD TAX AND PAYE. REPORT TAX-FREE SALES 071-987 7749.

QUEST FOR  
BODYBUILDING  
BAND

CE T  
FAX  
WE

HALIFAX

Quest for perfect physique backfires

## Bodybuilding drugs change husbands into raging bulls

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of women are turning to a support group after suffering mental and physical abuse from men taking bodybuilding drugs.

The Anabolic Steroid Wives' Association has been inundated with requests for help and counselling because men taking hormone drugs to improve their physiques or sporting performances frequently become psychologically unbalanced and even violent.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat MP, is particularly concerned at the social harm caused by individuals taking anabolic steroids. He is hoping to get an early second reading of his private member's bill, which would make it a criminal offence to possess the drugs without a medical prescrip-



Lambert: women need to know they are not alone

tion. At the moment, it is only an offence to sell them. The association was founded by Sherry Lambert, a telephone sales manager from Preston, Lancashire, whose personal experience persuaded her that other women might want to share their worries.

One typical case history on Ms Lambert's files concerns a woman living with her boy friend, a divorced father of five. The relationship was harmonious at first. However, her boy friend's interest in strength became obsessional. He closed his small printing business because it interfered with his training. He became irritable, and prone to outbursts of anger, such as throwing cups of coffee.

On one occasion when out shopping, his girl friend asked him for £2. He responded by

sweeping his arm along racks of clothes, flinging them to the floor. The woman, who asked not to be identified, said: "He pulled food off the shelves and then ran into the street and threw my shopping in the air." She described his behaviour as that of a "raging bull".

On another occasion, she returned to find the house in a shambles, with broken plates on the kitchen floor, doors ripped off their hinges and the washing machine dented. "I found the kids hiding upstairs. What has happened?" I asked them. One replied, "Dad's gym kit was not dry and there is no tuna fish in the house."

The woman says she learnt not to argue. "Although he never once hurt me or the children, it was best to humiliate him. At first I racked my brains to figure out why he was behaving like this." Then she remembered him swallowing tablets. She searched the house and found the hormone drugs, something he had said he never took.

His sex drive was intense when he first began taking anabolic steroids, but eventually it was suppressed because high dosages ultimately have a weakening effect on libido.

The cost of the drugs, which bodybuilders buy on a thriving black market and often take in high dosages together with vast quantities of food, had been funded through her own job. She often had to work long hours to meet the bills. Nevertheless, she dreaded returning home, sometimes passing the house several times before summoning up courage to enter. She eventually moved out.

When Ms Lambert, 32, set up the association, she began receiving several hundred letters from wives or girl friends, some of whom feel they are prisoners in their own homes. One mother from Newcastle wrote: "I do not know which way to turn. I have three children, no money and constantly undergo mental and physical torture."

Most of the letters come from the wives of bodybuilders but some are from the partners of sportsmen, such as boxers or athletes. Many of the letters tell of physical abuse. Ms Lambert says that the women are comforted by hav-

ing a confidante. "I try wherever possible to link wives into a communication network in their own area." She also refers them for professional help and next year wants to extend the debate by speaking at universities and local sports councils.

In the United States, where an estimated million people, including 250,000 high school students, take hormone drugs, Dr Harrison Pope and Dr David Katz, two psychiatrists at the Harvard Medical School, have made a detailed survey of individuals taking anabolic steroids.

Dr Pope said: "We were surprised that so many of our subjects described the same side effects, including irritability and increased aggression."

As the woman in Ms Lambert's case history, says: "When I was experiencing the effects of an anabolic steroid user I found it impossible to explain the situation to a non-user's wife or ordinary person. I felt alone, had nobody to talk to, nobody who understood the animal rages, sometimes hourly, with which I had to live."



Taking off: Katherine Higgins of Christie's with a Thunderbird 3 model built for the 1960s television series. Rocketing interest has pushed up the estimate at the December 17 auction to £1,500

Welsh

Faking time

Rare bird egg

Bond winner

**Cardiff Three fight murder conviction**

THREE Cardiff men serving life sentences for the murder of a young prostitute will have their case re-examined by the Court of Appeal today.

Their lawyers believe new evidence points to a miscarriage of justice, the latest in a series of embarrassing mistakes for the legal system. Supporters of the "Cardiff Three" have mounted a long campaign to overturn the verdicts, with the backing of Liberty, the pressure group for criminal justice reform.

Tony Paris, 35, Yusef Abdulahi, 30, and Stephen Miller, 26, have protested their innocence since they were jailed in November 1990 after Britain's longest murder trial. A jury at Swansea Crown Court convicted them of murdering Lynette White, 20, who was found hacked to death on St Valentine's day 1988 in a flat in Cardiff where she took clients.

### The way it isn't

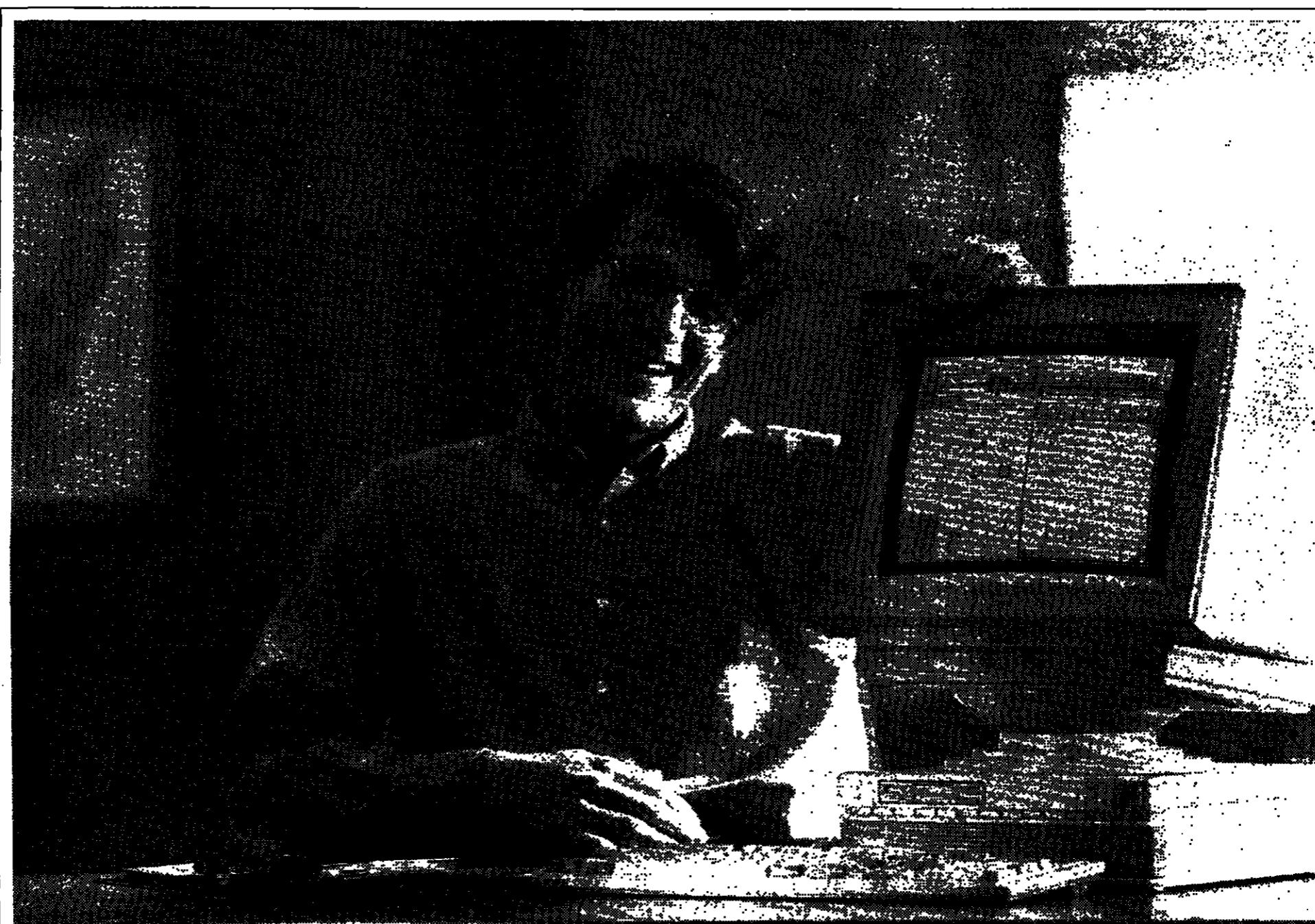


David Bowie  
Has become a bit showy.  
It's not very mellow.  
To reply 'Yes' to 'Hello'

Kevin Mackenzie  
Is a man close to frenzy.  
He can't get enough  
Of Royals in the buff.

Shirley MacLaine  
Says: "I simply can't  
explain!"  
I've lived so many times  
before  
Yet I keep coming back as  
a bore."

Peter Carter-Ruck  
Is down on his luck.  
For a digestive biscuit, a  
short chat and a cup of  
tea  
He can charge only  
£2,986.55 + VAT.



## "At last, a PC that understands computers are supposed to make life easier."

Olivetti PCS is a tried and tested range of computers now developed to make life easier.

70,000 people in the UK have already discovered that running a small business, studying, balancing the household accounts or playing computer games is made easier with PCS.

To begin with you don't need a complicated instruction manual full of technospeak; instead you'll find a pre-loaded program that acts as a step-by-step guide.

Don't be deceived however, PCS

are powerful, technologically advanced

computers with the latest features such as

'search and destroy' anti-virus software.

PCS ranges from the neat PCS11 with

its A4 footprint to the powerful PCS44.

And we've not only made PCS easier to work, we've made it easier to play. Buy PCS before the year end and get your free "Action Set" games pack worth £100.

### New PCS range - Technical specification

	PCS11	PCS35	PCS44
Processor	386SX	386SX	486SX
Speed	16MHz	25MHz	25MHz
RAM std	2Mb	2Mb	4Mb
RAM max	10Mb	10Mb	20Mb
HDU	40Mb	40Mb	85Mb
Price ex VAT	£599	£699	£1,049

All above specifications include: Colour VGA monitor • Mouse PS/2 compatible • Software pre-installed on hard disk: Tutorial and User Guide, DOS 5, Windows 3, Norton Antivirus, DoubleDisk Compressor • SCART TV Connector • Free "Action Set" games pack • 12 months on-site warranty



# olivetti

Products from the PCS range available from Dixons • Currys Supercentre • Harrods • Kaytech Superstore • PC World • Ryman • Wilding and selected dealers. Subject to available stocks. For further information, please telephone: 081-780 8160. All trademarks acknowledged

HALIFAX

TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE, HX1 2RG.

## A TYPICAL JAPANESE WORKING DAY.

In the Land of the Rising Sun the average worker spends 9 hours 2 minutes toiling every working day. (That's 200 hours a year more than we over here are expected to work.)

They are armed with an education and training that is renowned throughout the world.

How can we compete?

Well, we can start by making the most of our own strengths. Our ingenuity. Our ability to learn and adapt. Because the best way for us to compete is to create a workforce that is flexible, highly motivated and technology led.

The surprising thing (for some people) is that we've been doing this since 1983.

That was the year BTEC, the Business and Technology Education Council was introduced. Since then it has provided vocational education and training for hundreds of thousands of students. (In over 40 different fields.)

Nor have people been slow in recognising its success. Now with the backing of the Government, the CBI and the Trade Unions an entirely new framework of vocational qualifications is being launched under the auspices of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

Some of the first of these awards will be BTEC General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs). The first vocational qualifications recognised throughout the country that carry the same respect as GCSEs and A levels.

The courses will have a strong practical bias too; offering skills and training relevant to particular jobs. (Students won't just learn the theory behind how an engine works, they'll also have to roll their sleeves up and make it work.)

GNVQ courses have been designed to evolve. They'll change as new information and more modern techniques become available. (So no time is wasted on the irrelevant or outmoded.) The courses will also provide an ideal springboard for higher education and other full professional qualifications.

Successful nations in the future won't be the ones that put in the most hours at the office or factory. They'll be the ones with the best trained, most sophisticated workforces. And that's just what BTEC General National Vocational Qualifications are designed to provide us with.

Get ready to run up the flag. The Union Jack of course.

From September 1993, students can study BTEC GNVQs at two levels: Level 2 equates to a BTEC First or 4 GCSEs; Level 3 to a BTEC National or A levels. Subjects: Art & Design, Business, Health & Social Care, Leisure & Tourism, and Manufacturing. (More to follow) Courses may be studied at Colleges of Further Education and in some sixth forms in England, Wales & Northern Ireland. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 071-413 8445.

**BTEC GNVQ**  
GENERAL NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

# Serb attacks push Britain into the thick of war in Bosnia

■ While the West agonises over armed intervention, its troops are forced to fight

FROM ADAM LEBOV IN KISELJAK

THE bark of a dog, the twang of an axe cutting firewood, the crack of automatic gunfire somewhere over the hill. In this bizarre landscape, a perilous mix of rural idyll and battlefield, British UN troops tread a delicate path through a ruined field of conflicting local demands and expectations.

Poorly armed Bosnian and Croat fighters can only look on in wonder at the thundering procession of armoured Scimitar and Warrior vehicles as they rumble around the war zone. Their frustration turns to anger as their calls for the British troops to blast the Serbs in the hills are refused.

So far. For however much politicians in Whitehall bluster and prevaricate, all the evidence here on the ground points towards greater military intervention. Greater, because de facto military intervention is already taking place.

Officers insist that their UN mandate covers only the escort and facilitating of aid convoys. They say UN troops are not

here as a Western strike force. But a mandate is in the eye of the beholder. Patience with Serb tactics of continual harassment and obstruction of aid convoys is wearing thin, both in Bosnia and New York.

United Nations troops may have to move beyond impartial peacekeeping. Boutros Boutros Ghali, its secretary-general, said last month:

"They may become party to a conflict with whoever tries to block, rob or destroy the convoys they are protecting".

In effect this is already happening. True, this is not yet Operation Balkan Storm, an all-out assault aimed at destroying the Serb government and armed forces. But there is a huge difference in approach between the operations of the British UN troops in central Bosnia and their virtually impotent — by their general's own admission — colleagues bunkered down in Sarajevo.

British troops have already returned fire. Soldiers and officers serving here make it clear that none would hesitate



Family's despair: a Bosnian mother and son crying over the father's grave in Sarajevo, where the suburb of Otes was said to have fallen to the Serbs

to shoot back if fired upon and they can identify the target. They also say they will not stand idly by and watch atrocities taking place.

Under Colonel Bob Stewart, British soldiers are taking a high-profile aggressive ap-

proach that takes them as far as they can up to the Serb front lines, even though they are likely to attract fire. Operations must be approved by the UN high command at Kiseljak, outside Sarajevo, but Colonel Stewart has a high degree

of autonomy. The events of last week, when Serb gunners let loose artillery at a convoy of Warriors in the frontline town of Turbe, show that the British presence attracts targeted, as opposed to indirect, fire.

Warriors patrol Turbe four

or five times a week. There are no aid convoys to the war-ravaged town, so why bother going there? Officers describe the strategy as carrying out "an implied task", pushing out as far as possible in every direction, reconnoitring and

gathering as much intelligence as possible. All of which will be of vital use in the event of a full-scale military intervention.

Should Turbe fall, Serb forces will be poised at the gates of Travnik, just ten miles

from Vitez and the British base. If Travnik falls, and then Vitez, the British contingent will not leave.

Pressure is building in the West, and now the Middle East, for full-scale intervention. United Nations officers refuse to say on the record whether they would like their mandate altered so they could force aid convoys through to the starving and freezing of Bosnia, instead of negotiating passage. Privately, though many are furious at the difficulties and obstructions they say the Serbs continually place in their way. Trigger fingers, even UN ones, are getting itchy.

In Sarajevo, General Hussein Ali Abdul Razek of Egypt said on Saturday that UN efforts there have "completely failed". In his opinion he said the UN must show it intends to intervene and stop the war. He also demanded that those responsible must be put on trial.

If and when that happens, the British contingent, backed up by the biggest concentration of armour in Bosnia, is already deployed. So are their Spanish colleagues in Mostar in the southwest, the French in Bihać the northwest, the Canadians in Banja Luka in the north, and the mixed force in Sarajevo.

## Ban on candidacy of Panic upheld

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISON IN BELGRADE

SERBIA'S electoral commission upheld its ban on the candidacy of Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, for the Serbian presidency. On Friday the commission had ruled that Mr Panic, the only serious challenger to Slobodan Milosevic, was ineligible to run because he had not lived in Serbia long enough.

On Saturday the ruling was overturned by the Supreme Court but yesterday this judgment was itself rejected by the electoral commission. Mr Panic, a Serbian-American businessman, returned from California in the summer to take up his current post.

Yesterday's decision cast further doubt on whether the opposition would participate in the December 20 poll. Earlier, opposition leaders had debated whether to withdraw from the race immediately or to wait until the courts gave a final decision on whether Mr Panic could run. Some leaders argued that they should in any case boycott the poll because of alleged irregularities. Sources within the main opposition party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, claim that as many as 30 per cent of people believed to be

opposition supporters have had their names mysteriously removed from the electoral register.

Although sanctions are being more closely monitored, petrol remains freely available and cheap in Serbia. Trade unions have been given foodstuffs from the state reserves to distribute to their members at low prices. Fines for late payment of rents and of electricity and telephone bills have been suspended. The opposition claims that all this amounts to bribery by the ruling Socialist party to secure re-election.

In Pristina, the capital of the overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian southern Serbian province of Kosovo, the foundation stone for the largest Orthodox cathedral in the Balkans was laid yesterday.

One of the candidates in the province's elections, which are to be boycotted by the ethnic Albanians, is a Serb militia leader known by his *nom de guerre* "Arkan". The paramilitary group run by Arkan gained a fearsome reputation during fighting in Croatia and eastern Bosnia and his name is frequently mentioned in human rights groups in the context of war crimes trials.

## Troops fail to cross front line

BY ADAM LEBOV

BRITISH troops yesterday were still trying to cross the Serbian front line to meet a United Nations aid convoy attempting to reach the Muslim-controlled town of Tuzla from Belgrade.

The convoy of eight Scimitar and four Warrior armoured vehicles was forced to turn back on Saturday after it came under fire from Serb forces as it attempted to cross no man's land at the front line. It was also delayed by a minefield laid by Croat forces fighting in Bosnia.

British officers said that if the convoy was fired at yesterday they would return fire. "One assumes it was the Serb side," said Major Alan Abramham of the 9th/12th Lancashire. "The Bosnians have given us their word that they will not hinder our activities."

The UN aid convoy is attempting to open a new route from Belgrade to Tuzla, one of the biggest cities still under Bosnian control, that avoids the hazardous mountain roads by approaching from the Serb side. The British plan is for the armoured vehicles to cross the Serb front lines several times to meet the aid convoy and bring it into Muslim territory, to escort the lorries out again and to return to Muslim territory.

"If we are successful and can open this corridor, we will be able to run regular convoys from Belgrade," said Major Martin Waters at the British headquarters in Vitez.

The strategy of sending the UN armoured escort across the front line is an attempt to avoid the aid convoy being held up, often by crowds of angry Serb women. It is also indicative of a new forcefulness by the UN in trying to get aid to the freezing and hungry Bosnian Muslims.

## Bentsen tipped

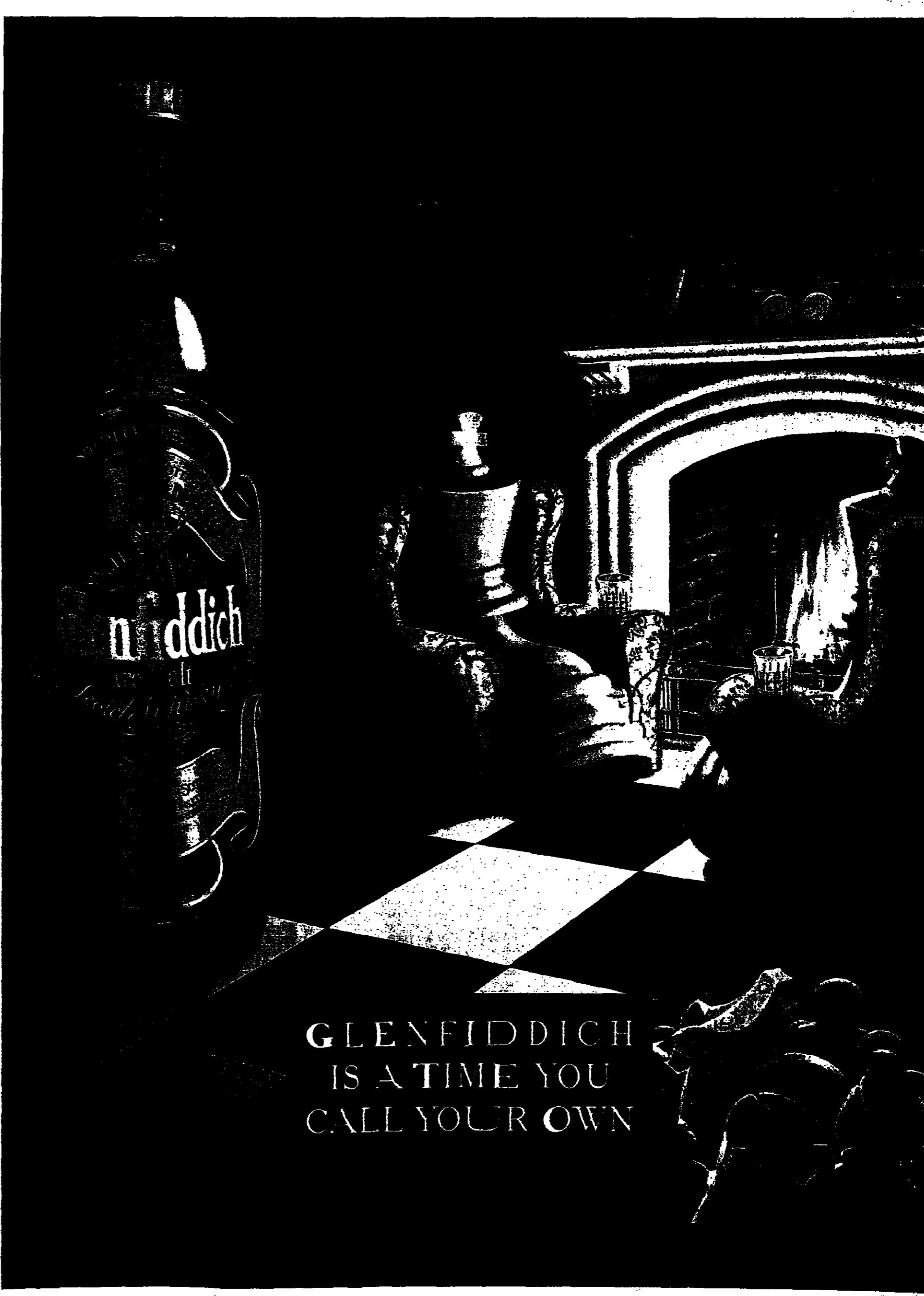
Washington: Bill Clinton, the US president-elect, is expected to name Lloyd Bentsen, the chairman of the Senate finance committee, as his Treasury secretary this week and Roger Altman, an investment banker, as his deputy.

## Britons well

Amman: British diplomats here report that both Paul Rude and Michael Wainwright, the Britons jailed for illegally entering Iraq, have been visited in jail in Baghdad and were well. (Reuters)

## German march

Munich: About 250,000 Germans with candles protested against racist attacks on foreigners by right-wing gangs after an apartment fire killed a Croatian worker. (Reuters)



GLENFIDDICH  
IS A TIME YOU  
CALL YOUR OWN

Countdown to the Edinburgh summit: further flaws emerge in grand European designs

## Swiss voters rebuff common market pact and opt for isolation

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND ALAN McGREGOR IN GENEVA

SWISS voters had chosen isolation in rejecting a Europe-wide common market in yesterday's referendum, Frans Andriessen, the European Community's external relations chief, said. He ruled out negotiating bilaterally the trade terms the pact would have conferred.

"I have to say that the Swiss people have opted for isolation," Mr Andriessen, who conducted negotiations on the European Economic Area (EEA) with the seven-nation European Free Trade Association (Efta), told reporters after the results of the Swiss popular vote became known. "A country that has chosen isolation cannot expect that we can do in a bilateral accord what they have rejected on the multilateral level," he added.

The Swiss will almost certainly withdraw their application for EC membership. Standing aloof from the rest of Europe is central to Swiss history and identity. Although the stubborn Swiss refusal to take even half a step towards European integration was not a surprise, the vote is yet another piece of bad news for grand European designs.

Eighteen of the 26 semi-independent cantons refused to endorse the government's

application for EEA membership, although about half the voters approved of it. The turn-out, more than 80 per cent of the 4.5 million eligible to vote, set an all-time record.

The German and Italian-speaking areas, including Zurich and Bern, voted solidly against the EEA; French-speaking Suisse Romande, on the other hand, returned big majorities in its favour.

But yesterday's vote may

turn out to be only a delay in both the creation of the EEA and in Switzerland's very slow turn towards the outside world. Switzerland is not interested in holding the treaty hostage until the accord is changed and the treaty is anyway designed to protect the majority from that threat. The Swiss will not cause its Efta partners the legal and political agonies which the reluctant Danes are inflicting on their partners in the Maastricht treaty.

The EEA treaty, signed last spring and now unlikely to come into force before next summer, contains a protocol allowing the other states to put the accord into effect without the ratification of one or two states. Two countries are now likely to drop out of the projected free trade zone since

western Europe's squabbling introspection worsens, some governments on the fringe of the EC may be tempted to abandon hopes for an interim single market and concentrate on joining the club that matters most to their economies and getting fully inside the EC. But the EEA scheme, unwieldy and temporary although it is, retains some advantages. If the treaty comes into effect, the economic side of membership negotiations with these small, rich states, is already complete. Talks with the EC boil down to disputes over farm subsidies and whether neutrality is compatible with EC membership.

The door will be left open to Switzerland. The country earns half of its national revenue from external trade and in the past two decades the share of its exports with the EC has risen while the share sent to the rest of the world has dropped. Ingenious and energetic as Swiss exporters are, they face huge difficulties outside what will be the world's largest free-trade area.

Anti-treaty campaigners claimed that Switzerland should not sell its birthright of local democracy and independence for mere export opportunities. The losses caused by self-exclusion from the EEA can be made good, they claim, by deregulation and greater efficiency, and Switzerland can become an alpine Hong Kong. The defeated pro-treaty forces say they risk turning the country into a European Nepal.

In Britain subsidiarity is understood to mean that laws should only be made at EC level if the national authorities are incapable of effective action. But no attempt has ever been made to define what is meant by "effective action", the report says.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, for example, sees subsidiarity as administrative devolution. "Under this conception," the report says, "national and local governments and parliaments are in areas where the Community decides to act little more than agents of Brussels endowed with a modicum of discretion."

Summit build-up, page 1  
Leading article, page 15



Flagging the summit: a youngster is carried aloft through the streets of Edinburgh as the city prepares to play host to Europe's leaders

## Subsidiarity fight 'destined to fail'

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS to tame the Brussels bureaucracy at the Edinburgh summit this week and prevent the drift towards a European "superstate" will end in failure, according to a report published today.

Britain's belief that further encroachments on the powers of national parliaments will be stopped by implementing the principle of subsidiarity, a doctrine setting out limits on the role of central institutions, is fatally flawed and could even prove counter-productive, the report says.

Proposals to make the European Court of Justice decide whether particular legislative

initiatives should be the responsibility of European Community or national authorities could, moreover, bog the EC down in expensive and time-consuming legal challenges, the report adds.

Published by the European Policy Think tank dedicated to "British and European market studies", the report, *Subsidiarity: No Panacea*, has been timed to focus attention on the subsidiarity debate in the run-up to the Edinburgh summit.

In Britain subsidiarity is understood to mean that laws should only be made at EC level if the national authorities are incapable of effective action. But no attempt has ever been made to define what is meant by "effective action", the report says.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, for example, sees subsidiarity as administrative devolution. "Under this conception," the report says, "national and local governments and parliaments are in areas where the Community decides to act little more than agents of Brussels endowed with a modicum of discretion."

Delors: subsidiarity seen as devolution

## EC summit to focus on saving battered treaty

FROM GEORGE BROCK  
IN BRUSSELS

EVEN before last night's blow from the Swiss referendum, the European Community summit this week looked like an event with a flaw. The leaders who arrive in Edinburgh on Thursday evening will, as Community tradition demands, avoid referring to the item missing from their agenda: monetary union.

A year ago, ministers at Maastricht were fretting about the fine print and final bargaining on the rules and timetable needed to create a single European currency before the century's end. In Edinburgh they will barely mention the subject, soured by this autumn's turmoil in the money markets. None of them could hope to agree on any reforms of the exchange-rate mechanism, and none want to give currency dealers any excuse to test the strength of the system any further. The timetable for monetary union has been shot to pieces by recession and public rebellion.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, said a year ago that the Maastricht treaty must set an unbreakable calendar for monetary union and set up a common foreign policy. Now Delors' agenda already has an antiquated ring. In Edinburgh, the assembled prime ministers will pledge their continued faith to a treaty which may never be implemented because of ratification



problems in Britain and Denmark and whose centrepiece, an irreversible single currency programme, now not only does not apply to the British and the Danes but is also rejected by the Germans and the Dutch.

Regular declarations of belief in the Maastricht treaty by the governments which signed it are becoming a ritual. The call for speedy ratification at Edinburgh will be odder than most because John Major is suspected of never having liked the document or wanted it written. "The game at Edinburgh is saving the treaty, irrespective of the contents," said one British official. The *New York Times* last week quoted a senior British official as predicting that even if the treaty was formally ratified, "most of the provisions will clearly never happen".

With European governments mired in recession, saving the present battered version of the treaty is still preferred to any form of re-

negotiation. The summit will turn on whether the leaders can agree on a special status in the treaty for Denmark and on how that offer goes down with the Danes.

Much depends on Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. If Herr Kohl backs the complex legal formula for Danish opt-outs, opposition will probably melt away. But the pivotal decisions will be taken by two Danish party leaders who are not members of the government and will not be in Edinburgh. Without an approving nod from Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, leader of the Social Democrats, and from Holger Nielsen, leader of the Socialist People's party, no second Danish referendum on Maastricht is likely to

resuscitate the treaty.

If the Danish debate goes well, the prospects for settling a five-year EC budget will rise. Much of the detail is drafted and outstanding disputes have to be settled by high-level political decision. The key decision lies with Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, who can either break up the summit in the hope of winning larger but delayed subsidy or compromise and have the money sooner.

Mr Major can already

claim one success. Britain, Denmark and Germany have successfully insisted that talks to take Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway into the EC can start early next year. But what kind of Community will enter remains unclear.

The Spanish prime minister said a generous economic package would reactivate the move toward European Union. "A reasonable cohesion policy will benefit not only the countries in question, but also all of the entire Community." Both leaders declared themselves clearly against a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty.

The prime ministers also called for more aid for offshore islands such as Portugal's Madeira and the Azores and Spain's Canaries, which they referred to as "ultra-peripheral" regions. All of their economies suffer from the high cost of transporting their products.

The two countries discussed ways to combat crime, pollution, drugs, the laundering of money, and they agreed to cooperate in police investigations. One of their biggest concerns is the free movement of people from January 1. The immigration of tens of thousands of persons from Portugal's former African territories and from Latin America, great numbers of whom move to Spain to work, has been a bone of contention between the two countries. Spain has urged Portugal to cut off the flow. Two agreements will be signed in February to increase security.

□ Leader steps down: Alvaro Cunhal, 79, leader of the Portuguese Communist party for the past 30 years, stepped down last night in favour of Carlos Carvalhas.

50, the party's candidate for president in the last elections

Conservatives turn attack on Gaidar

## Embattled Yeltsin holds critics at bay

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin narrowly survived an attempt by Russia's highest legislature to curb his powers as leader at the weekend when a key vote aimed at stripping him of the right to appoint his own ministers failed by just four votes.

Three other amendments proposed by Mr Yeltsin and his reformers were passed by the Congress before today's expected big clash over the confirmation in office of Yegor Gaidar, the radical acting prime minister.

The scale of opposition makes Mr Gaidar's future uncertain. His fate is seen as

the last big fight of this Congress, and many liberals are pessimistic about his chances of surviving the ravages of hardliners who are in confident mood after Saturday's near-miss assault on reform. Aleksandr Shokhin, a deputy prime minister, said that he thought the chances of Mr Gaidar being confirmed in office were "very slight".

Congress will take out its frustration at losing the constitutional vote of the acting prime minister.

Igor Golombovsky, editor of the liberal daily *Izvestia* said that he "gazed in despair upon Congress", whose intransigence he said would mean a delay or even a reversal to Russian reform. "This is a massive attack from the conservative flank," he said. "The issue is not Mr Gaidar but the whole political future. He is the focal point for the whole effort of reform and if he is ousted now it will not be the result of a compromise by the government but of its defeat."

Behind-the-scenes negotiations between the government and the centre-right Civic Union, intended to help to achieve Mr Gaidar's re-election, were held at the weekend.

Deputies gasped as the results of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the hardline position of outright hostility to Mr Yeltsin. This was a highly personal vote against Mr Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman, told him gleefully: "Draw your own conclusions from this result. If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be your last and it will lead to the destruction of the country."

The number of deputies who voted to curb Mr Yeltsin's powers, 690, was just short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes, but showed there is sufficient opposition to impede the confirmation of Mr Gaidar, who needs more than 50 per cent of the votes to keep his job. The president's right to choose his own government is essential to the continuation of the Western-backed reforms against energetic opposition from those who believe that Russia needs a return to state control of the economy and intervention to prop up its ailing industries.

Mr Yeltsin's aides had indicated that he would have called a referendum on abolishing the Congress had the vote been passed and one close supporter, Father Gleb Yakunin, said that Mr Yeltsin had been prepared to introduce direct presidential rule immediately. "This was the

result of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the hardline position of outright hostility to Mr Yeltsin. This was a highly personal vote against Mr Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman, told him gleefully: "Draw your own conclusions from this result. If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be your last and it will lead to the destruction of the country."

The number of deputies who voted to curb Mr Yeltsin's powers, 690, was just short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes, but showed there is sufficient opposition to impede the confirmation of Mr Gaidar, who needs more than 50 per cent of the votes to keep his job. The president's right to choose his own government is essential to the continuation of the Western-backed reforms against energetic opposition from those who believe that Russia needs a return to state control of the economy and intervention to prop up its ailing industries.

Deputies gasped as the results of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the hardline position of outright hostility to Mr Yeltsin. This was a highly personal vote against Mr Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman, told him gleefully: "Draw your own conclusions from this result. If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be your last and it will lead to the destruction of the country."

The number of deputies who voted to curb Mr Yeltsin's powers, 690, was just short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes, but showed there is sufficient opposition to impede the confirmation of Mr Gaidar, who needs more than 50 per cent of the votes to keep his job. The president's right to choose his own government is essential to the continuation of the Western-backed reforms against energetic opposition from those who believe that Russia needs a return to state control of the economy and intervention to prop up its ailing industries.

## Democracy takes wraps off sex scandals

FROM ROGER BOYES  
EAST EUROPE  
CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA's Congress of People's Deputies is finding that democracy and sex go together like a horse and carriage. The speaker of the Russian parliament, the bull-necked nationalist Ruslan Khasbulatov, has been accused of seducing a young journalist called Daria Aslamova. The decisive move came after he apparently invited her up to his pipe collection.

Miss Aslamova went for wide-ranging discussions and claims that she picked up several other deputies including the shrewd oppositionist Nikolai Travkin. "I love energetic men who dream of reshaping the world," said Miss Aslamova in the youth magazine *Sobesednik*.

In Poland, too, there is nothing quite as aphrodisiac as a parliamentary debate — ask those former communists who dodged out of the Chamber during tedious budget proceedings, allegedly to meet Anastazja Potocka to pursue

the turbulent deputies behind it and it is simply struggling to get through to the end of the assembly tomorrow with the minimum of damage to its policies and cabinet.

Reflecting on the weekend's events, Andrei Nechayev, the economics minister, summed up the reformers' gloom laced with relief that their platform had survived at all after a disastrous Congress. "I'm about as happy as you can be when you have fallen into a swamp but still not drowned."

Deputies gasped as the results of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the hardline position of outright hostility to Mr Yeltsin. This was a highly personal vote against Mr Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman, told him gleefully: "Draw your own conclusions from this result. If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be your last and it will lead to the destruction of the country."

The number of deputies who voted to curb Mr Yeltsin's powers, 690, was just short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes, but showed there is sufficient opposition to impede the confirmation of Mr Gaidar, who needs more than 50 per cent of the votes to keep his job. The president's right to choose his own government is essential to the continuation of the Western-backed reforms against energetic opposition from those who believe that Russia needs a return to state control of the economy and intervention to prop up its ailing industries.

Deputies gasped as the results of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the hardline position of outright hostility to Mr Yeltsin. This was a highly personal vote against Mr Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman, told him gleefully: "Draw your own conclusions from this result. If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be your last and it will lead to the destruction of the country."

The number of deputies who voted to curb Mr Yeltsin's powers, 690, was just short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes, but showed there is sufficient opposition to impede the confirmation of Mr Gaidar, who needs more than 50 per cent of the votes to keep his job. The president's right to choose his own government is essential to the continuation of the Western-backed reforms against energetic opposition from those who believe that Russia needs a return to state control of the economy and intervention to prop up its ailing industries.

Deputies gasped as the results of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the hardline position of outright hostility to Mr Yeltsin. This was a highly personal vote against Mr Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman, told him gleefully: "Draw your own conclusions from this result. If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be your last and it will lead to the destruction of the country."

The number of deputies who voted to curb Mr Yeltsin's powers, 690, was just short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes, but showed there is sufficient opposition to impede the confirmation of Mr Gaidar, who needs more than 50 per cent of the votes to keep his job. The president's right to choose his own government is essential to the continuation of the Western-backed reforms against energetic opposition from those who believe that Russia needs a return to state control of the economy and intervention to prop up its ailing industries.

Deputies gasped as the results of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the hardline position of outright hostility to Mr Yeltsin. This was a highly personal vote against Mr Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman, told him gleefully: "Draw your own conclusions from this result. If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be your last and it will lead to the destruction of the country."

The number of deputies who voted to curb Mr Yeltsin's powers, 690, was just short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional changes, but showed there is sufficient opposition to impede the confirmation of Mr Gaidar, who needs more than 50 per cent of the votes to keep his job. The president's right to choose his own government is essential to the continuation of the Western-backed reforms against energetic opposition from those who believe that Russia needs a return to state control of the economy and intervention to prop up its ailing industries.

Deputies gasped as the results of Saturday's vote flashed up on the giant score-board, the conservatives amazed at their success in grinding down the government's margin of

support, the liberals horrified by the swing by centre-right participants to the hard

# Militants bury hope of harmony in rubble of Indian mosque



Rao: told to uphold the rule of law

BY COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Indian government last night imposed direct rule on the northern state of Uttar Pradesh after the destruction of a mosque in Ayodhya by rioting Hindu militants. State-run television, quoting a government spokesman, announced that President Sharmaji had signed the order under constitutional provisions allowing for direct rule of a state where law and order had broken down. A statement quoted the president as telling P. V. Narasimha Rao the prime minister, "to initiate appropriate and expeditious steps to uphold the rule of law, the maintenance of public order and protection of all law abiding citizens".

President Sharmaji "deplored vandalism that has caused damage to the mosque in Ayodhya and has observed that such acts are absolutely against the doctrine and practices of Hinduism and all other great religions," it said. Uttar Pradesh is ruled by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a Hindu rightist group. Just before the Delhi order, Kalyan Singh, the state chief minister, resigned. A curfew was imposed last night in many parts of north India and the army was put on alert.

The most serious consequence of the destruction of the mosque is that it will further widen the divide between the majority Hindu

community and Muslims who form about 11 per cent of India's population and who are resentful that the government could not ensure the safety of their shrine. Muslims fear that if the demand to hand over the Babri mosque in Ayodhya was conceded then Hindus would make claims for other disputed shrines which were once temples. The destruction of the mosque will also have serious repercussions for the Rao government, under criticism by a section of its own Congress (I) party for adopting a soft

approach towards the BJP demands for building a temple to the Hindu god-king Ram at the site of the mosque. The anti-Rao lobby in the Congress (I) led by Arjun Singh, the central minister for human resource development, has for some time been expressing its unhappiness over Mr Rao's conciliatory approach to the BJP, at the expense of hurting the sentiments of India's 100 million Muslims and negating the secular traditions of the country and the party. It had demanded the dismissal of the

Raj state government in Uttar Pradesh.

The ruling Congress (I) government and the BJP were taken by surprise by yesterday's turn of events. Lai Krishna Advani, the BJP leader, had given an assurance to the Supreme Court and the Rao government that temple work would only be of a symbolic nature involving ceremonial rituals. The BJP leadership has, however, been clearly unable to defuse the temple dispute it had built up by playing to Hindu sentiment. The reins of the leadership over the temple agitation have passed on to a motley group of religious men.

Mr Singh's speedy resignation anticipated the imminent dismissal of his state government by the Rao administration in Delhi for its failure to protect the Babri mosque. Mr Singh had on numerous occasions given a commitment to the government and the courts that the mosque structure would be protected and that he did not require additional assistance from central government forces.

The BJP has capitalised on temple-mosque controversy to woo Hindu voters. In 1991 the BJP swept to power in the state, the most populous in the country, by questioning why in a majority Hindu country a temple could not be built at the site where the god Ram was believed to have been born. However, there is little historical evidence to back the claim that Ram's birthplace was at

the Babri mosque site. The BJP recently renewed its campaign on the Ram temple controversy because it could not afford to be seen by its followers as renegeing on its electoral promise to build the temple. The BJP's long-term strategy was to keep the issue on the boil, but it had not bargained that it would be unable to control the momentum of the movement and the passion it had aroused.

■ Srinagar: The body of H.N. Wanchoo, the Kashmiri human rights activist, shot dead by unidentified gunmen, was cremated as a strike called by militant groups to mourn his death paralysed the Kashmir valley.

Mosque destroyed, page 1

## Last-minute looting rife as US troops head for Somalia

FROM SAM KILEY IN BAIDOA

BANDS of gunmen have gone on a last-minute looting spree, ahead of the landing of US troops this week to restore law and order to Somalia.

The gunmen, convinced that the arrival of American soldiers, backed up by helicopter gunships, will end their extortion of aid agencies are now attacking the compounds of relief workers daily, forcing aid workers to move most of their staff in Baidoa city.

On Friday, security guards employed by the Australian wing of the Care aid agency, stole 96 million Somali shillings (£13,000) at gunpoint from the Care compound. The group, along with the International Committee of the Red Cross, handles most of the food aid brought in to Baidoa.

On Saturday night, gunmen again attempted to break into the compound. Yesterday morning a Jeep mounted with a machine gun rammed the steel doors at the entrance to the camp. Lockton Morrissey,

a former Australian soldier in charge of the Care project, said: "Mogadishu [the capital] may be the obvious place to send the Americans. But we need them more than Mogadishu. If they don't come in here bloody soon we shall be in very bad trouble."

Mr Morrissey has on occasions responded to attacks by gunmen with an equally robust reaction. Last week, he poured petrol on an invading armoured Jeep and threatened to burn it with its occupants if it did not withdraw. It did so.

Aid agencies such as Care, the Red Cross and Irish Concern are particular targets of the looters because they have to keep large amounts of cash to pay thousands of dollars in airport landing fees and transportation expenses for the tons of food brought in every day.

Similar looting has been attempted in Mogadishu recently but the anticipated arrival of American troops, and

## UN leader hints at protectorate

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK  
AND MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON

The United Nations is considering a Cambodia-style transitional authority in Somalia if its warring factions cannot agree to work together to run the country.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said at the weekend that UN officials would soon start talks on national reconciliation with Somalia's rival warlords in the hope of creating a new Somali authority. But he said that if the warring factions cannot agree, the UN might set up a transitional administration like that now overseeing the transition to democracy in Cambodia after years of civil war.

"Nothing has been decided," Dr Boutros Ghali said. "If they [the different factions] will begin to find a solution to promote a reconciliation then they can have their own administration. If they are not able to do this, then we will have to find a transitional authority." Dr Boutros Ghali plans to hold a preliminary meeting with rival Somali leaders early next month.

The creation of a Cambodia-style authority in Somalia could demand a much larger UN presence after the departure of the United States-led multinational force than the present plan for about 4,000 peacekeepers. More than 17,000 UN peacekeepers are stationed in Cambodia to prepare for UN-supervised elections next May, and thousands more UN staff are helping to register voters and run key government ministries.

Since the security council last week approved US-led military intervention in Somalia, Dr Boutros Ghali has said repeatedly that his main concern is not the deployment of the 30,000 troops but the rehabilitation of the country after they leave. He plans to establish a UN special fund for contributions to Somalia, believing the country will need "massive assistance" for reconstruction, rehabilitation, return of refugees, administration and a new police force. He is also insisting that disarmament is essential for lasting peace.

The first American troops of Operation Restore Hope,

the Pentagon's code name for the relief of the starving in Somalia, are expected to land on Somali soil tomorrow. France, which has offered 2,000 soldiers, will beat the Americans by about 24 hours, sending a detachment of 130 Foreign Legionaries from Djibouti to Mogadishu today. But the arrival of American marines and infantry in a phased deployment will have the most dramatic impact on the Somali capital.

The troops of the 10th Mountain Division (Light), based at Fort Drum in New York, were awaiting their delayed orders yesterday. They will fly into Somalia on transport planes once the marines have secured the airfield and port at Mogadishu.

Yesterday, the 1,800 marines who will lead the way were preparing for the deployment on board the USS *Tripoli*. The amphibious assault ship, together with the landing ships USS *Juniper* and USS *Rushmore*, all off Mogadishu, are carrying a self-contained marine force, complete with light tanks, armoured personnel carriers, helicopters, fuel, food and water.

The marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Pendleton in California, will fly by helicopter into Mogadishu. They have 23 helicopters, including four Cobras. Although they will fly in prepared for a hostile welcome, their arrival is not expected to be seriously resisted. Both the airfield and port should be secured fairly quickly, enabling the remaining 25,000 or so American troops to fly in at regular intervals from the United States.

Back-up is to be provided by the USS *Ranger*, an aircraft carrier with 70 aircraft, and two warships, a guided missile cruiser, USS *Valley Force*, and a destroyer, USS *Kincaid*. They are expected to sail from the Gulf later today or tomorrow.

Ethiopia has also agreed to allow the American forces to use their territory to cross into Somalia and a detachment of 40 American marines is expected to arrive in Addis Ababa later today.

While the situation in Baidoa is getting desperate, the atmosphere in Mogadishu is almost festive in anticipation of the arrival of American troops. Yesterday, General Muhammad Farrah Aidid's forces launched an assault on Baladre, 110 miles south of Baidoa, which is held by General Mohamed Hersi Morgan, the son-in-law of Somalia's ousted president, Mohamed Siad Barre. The movement of General Aidid's "regulars" has left the most venal and cowardly elements of his militia to plunder the local population and aid agencies in Baidoa.

■ Washington: Smith Hembstone, the US ambassador to Kenya, said yesterday that American troops in Somalia could face heavy casualties. US News and World Report reported: "If you liked Beirut, you will love Mogadishu," he was quoted as saying in a cable sent to the US State Department this month.

"I do not think Somalia is amenable to the quick-fix so beloved of Americans," his note said. "The one 'beneficial' effect a major American intrusion into Somalia is likely to have may be to reunite the Somali nation - against us," he said. (Reuters)

Occupied territories within nine months, is privately resigned to the probability that there is little chance of real change before he visits Washington in March for talks with Bill Clinton, who takes over as president next month.

Although the Israeli leader, who arrived in Rome yesterday and is expected in London tomorrow, came to power on a wave of enthusiasm, there is mounting disillusionment among Israelis and Palestinians over his perceived failure to meet his promises. The most notable example will be illustrated today in Washington when Israeli and Arab negotiators embark on the eighth round of the atrophied Middle East peace talks, where none of the participants is even pretending that progress is possible.

Even Mr Rabin, who predicted in July that he would have an agreement with Palestinians on the future of the

CHINA urged to discuss Patten reforms calmly

BY JAMES PRINGLE  
IN HONG KONG

pared to act ruthlessly when its interests are threatened.

Western suggestions that

China will not hurt Hong Kong's prosperity because it is

so important to Peking's long

March to modernisation are

no more than wishful thinking.

Deng Xiaoping, the senior Chinese leader, or his

successors, are quite capable of

expelling in mass the population

of Hong Kong after 1997 if they

face troublesome and

repudiating the colony with

people from the teeming province

of Sichuan.

For some experts, above all

Sir Percy Cradock, Margaret Thatcher's former chief adviser on China and Hong Kong.

Mr Patten's proposals will only antagonise Peking and lead to a more repressive system.

The Chinese leadership, as seen from the mass killings at Tiananmen Square, is pre-

pared to act ruthlessly when its

interests are threatened.

Western suggestions that

China will not hurt Hong

Kong's prosperity because it is

so important to Peking's long

March to modernisation are

no more than wishful thinking.

Deng Xiaoping, the senior Chinese leader, or his

successors, are quite capable of

expelling in mass the population

of Hong Kong after 1997 if they

face troublesome and

repudiating the colony with

people from the teeming province

of Sichuan.

The main reason why the Chinese leaders are being so

tough on Mr Patten is because they are afraid of his ideas.

They fear that the notion of

democracy could revive the

mass movement that led to

Tiananmen.

Although the expatriate

Hong Kong stockbrokers

believe Mr Patten has badly

misread Peking, there are

many in the colony who resent

attempts by the stockbrokers to

nestle up to China's authoritarian regime and write the

agenda for Hong Kong.

The common view in the

colony is that Mr Patten has

the support of most its resi-

dents. But Mr Patten, a keen

poker and bridge player, will

need all his nerve as the

Chinese gerontocracy displays

its ruthless nature.

ALTERATION  
TO INTEREST RATE

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc announces that the monthly rate of interest charged to its Access, MasterCard and Visa cardholders will be decreased from 1.69% to 1.66% per month (equivalent to an annual percentage of 23.51%) with effect from 14 December 1992.

From that date the new rate will be applied to all interest-bearing balances, cash advances and purchases attracting interest for the first time. The first sentence of Condition 6 (i) of The Royal Bank of Scotland Access, MasterCard and Visa Conditions of Use are amended accordingly.

**The Royal Bank of Scotland**  
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.  
Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

Carjacking is the latest peril to haunt lone women. But, Linda Grant asks, is the danger real, or a cynical hype?



The toughs who got going: Geena Davis (left) and Susan Sarandon came up, in *Thelma and Louise*, with at least one sure-fire way of fighting back against male aggression

## Fear on the road to nowhere

**O**n November 27, the *Daily Express* reported that a 23-year-old advertising consultant had been held hostage in her car and forced on a "nightmare" ride by a "crazed pervert". Four days earlier the paper had told of a 22-year-old office worker whose car had stopped in traffic when a "knife-wielding thug" jumped into the back seat and forced her to drive on. Less than three months before that, a hotel proprietor on her way to a late-night showing of *Alien 3* ran across six lanes of motorway after her car broke down on the hard shoulder and a "powerfully-built" attacker put his hand through the window and tried to grab her hair.

If the newspapers are to be believed, the latest import from America, along with serial killing and computer hacking, is carjacking — attacking a woman in her car when it is parked, idling at traffic lights or broken down on the motorway. Carjacking, the averagely concerned women driver would gather, has reached crisis proportions.

Within the last ten days of November four cases were reported, two in London and two in Liverpool. In America, *Today* announced, carjacking has become a "nationwide epidemic". A Congress sub-committee on crime pushed through legislation earlier this year which imposed sentences of between 15 years and life for carjacking. It is an offence which seems to have come from nowhere. The first reported American case occurred only last year. Since then, large cities such as Detroit have been claiming 20 a week.

According to the tabloids, carjacking is only to be averted by following a lengthy list of motoring do's and don'ts. Keep your car doors

locked at all times, women are advised. Never leave the passenger window open, even in warm weather. Don't leave anything in view which could identify you as a woman, such as make-up, hats or scarves. Buy a personal alarm and a car alarm. Keep a map in the car at all times so you never have to stop and ask the way. Sensible precautions? Or has media hysteria constructed a British copycat crime-wave out of a few isolated incidents?

As violent crime against women escalates, women seem to be safe nowhere, whatever they are doing. Stay at home and you risk domestic violence. Go to work and you'll be sexually harassed. Take a walk and you're asking to be mugged. Use public transport and you're taking your life into your hands. Get a man to accompany you and you're putting yourself under the protection of a potential date-rape. Drive and you're a target for carjackers.

And there is one group which by its very existence might as well be wearing sandwich boards saying: "Attack Me — I'm Vulnerable." These are, of course, career women. What other reason would a woman have to be driving without a male escort — as if shopping, taking children to school or visiting friends were tasks exclusively accomplished by husbands?

Is there a genuine risk for women motorists or is the carjacking "epidemic" no more than the latest manifestation of male anxiety about women's independence, an attempt to turn the whole world into a no-go zone? Last month the RAC launched its in-car phone service, a direct, push-button line to summon a patrolman and the police. While the service was designed to assist drivers who

had broken down, the television advertising campaign was targeted at women drivers. It would have recalled, in many viewers' minds, the case of Marie Wilkes, whose car broke down on the motorway and who was murdered after she had gone for help. Within a week of the device going on the market, the RAC says it received 5,000 enquiries.

Women in responsible positions resent being cast as victims by the media. Ann Koch, the deputy editor of *The World This Weekend*, the Radio 4 news programme, has, when driving at night on dark country

**'If you took all this to heart you'd never go anywhere'**

roads, considered a device like the one the RAC markets, but drives with her car doors unlocked and dismisses claims that carjacking is the terror that stalks career women. "Drawing public attention to safety is good, but if you took all this to heart you'd never go anywhere. I don't think women should be walking around in armour." She believes that the real safety issue is not about carjacking but the dangers of badly lit roads and car-parks.

Eighteen months ago, Birmingham City Council tried to open a women's-only car-park, reflecting research which showed that 75 per cent of 500 women questioned locally felt vulnerable in multi-storey parking facilities. But the scheme was op-

posed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which argued that it was illegal to offer a service to women only. An inspector with the West Midlands police said she would not use it because she did not believe men and women should be segregated.

When it opened it was offered to anyone who felt uneasy with ordinary car-parks. Not surprisingly, women gave it a wide berth, reasoning that if men could use it, it would be an obvious magnet for attackers.

Edmund King, a spokesman for the RAC, agrees that the carjacking scare has been hyped up. "We've been saying for a long time that if a woman abides by our 20-point programme of motoring safety, then she will have a minute risk of being carjacked," he says. "I lived in Los Angeles for a few years and I never had a problem because I never went into dangerous areas."

But many women drivers find it impossible to avoid neighbourhoods where potential attackers may lurk. Cindy George, who started Ladycabs, the women-only taxi service, ten years ago, takes carjacking more seriously. "Women need to be made aware that it's a big bad world out there with a lot of weirdos in it," she says. "Women who are careful tend to be dismissed as being paranoid." It is Ladycabs' policy that drivers never leave their vehicle to ring doorbells unless by prior arrangement in order to help a disabled person. And their car doors are kept locked.

So what happens when the careful woman driver is involved in an accident and locked doors trap her inside her car? After all, it happened to Ms George's daughter, whose central locking jammed after a head-on collision. It's a Catch 22. Ms George says: "You've got to weigh up

the odds. It's more on the cards that some weirdo will jump into your car at the lights than you'll be in an accident." Mr King argues that since carjacking tends to happen in urban areas where speed limits are lower and the chances of serious accidents diminished, locking the doors should not be a problem.

To those whose business it is to research crimes against women, the hysteria surrounding carjacking is no more than another way of cashing in on women's insecurities. "It's silly to frighten women, because fear itself becomes a problem," says Helen Peggs, a spokesperson for the National Victim Support Scheme. "People are making profits from terrifying women who don't know the real statistics."

**I**f the newspapers really want to be helpful about crime prevention, they should talk about domestic violence," she says. "Only 12 per cent of women who are murdered are killed by a stranger. There are things that women can do to protect themselves against carjacking, but it's worrying when women get scared about something that is not likely to happen."

Making a killing from women's anxieties about their safety can backfire in the face of those companies apparently most eager to promote their concern for women's needs. An American executive, in Britain for a meeting with Vodafone (which makes car phones, supposedly the essential accessory for lone women), was allegedly assaulted in a car by one of the company's employees.

Perhaps women may consider imitating another American phenomenon: the *Thelma and Louise* theory — travel in pairs, and armed.



**LIBBY PURVES**  
mistakes finds true love amid trappings of flashy silvwear, profiterole pranks and whoops of laughter. And we thought *OK*, but what happens when they actually have to do something? You know, get on with life, have children, have rows, sort out their diets, travel separately... all that? We were right again, and very depressing it all was.

But now we have the same fairytale. Nobody is spoilt by those few pictures of the *Princess and the Commander* dancing the Dashing White Sergeant in a romantic manner last summer: we, the Anne fans, prefer to contemplate the fact that they get over work the *A Britannia* officer, then a royal equerry, she a doughty working princess. We are quietly confident that their relationship has never included profiterole fights.

showing off to one another in helicopters or the word Squidgy.

Even better, they go sailing together. Everybody knows that sailing "small boats in northern British waters at that — her boat, be moored up wild and stormy Loch Craignish, not at the old Carnes" is a pursuit which appeals to a particular kind of couple. The kind who don't mind treading on each other's fingers as they struggle to get sail down, who are secure enough in their personal ability to risk being seen throwing up over the rail in a woolly bobble-hat, and who prove their mutual confidence not with prolonged and tearful telephone calls, but by going to sleep in a wet boat, and trusting the other not to pile up the boat on Ardnamurchan Point meanwhile.

Couples, in short, who prefer to work for their brief romantic moments on idyllic anchorages and do not make too much fuss when the idyllic anchor drops. 3am Anne fans — practical, unglamorous, battered old boots that we are — applaud all of this and Commander Laurence too. We give her our unqualified blessing.

And what makes it all even better is that we know, with peaceful certainty, that she doesn't give a damn whether we do or not.

administrator with the Society of Film Distributors. "It's a question of being organised, though there are always spin-offs like the other day when I found speech day was in the home diary but not the office one, I got there in the nick of time."

Sometimes the domestic is grist for the professional mill. "When I have had service I make a careful note of it for future use. It's sweet revenge."

The next film on domestic relations may well feature Ms Tree's recent encounter with a double glazing salesman. "He refused to do his presentation because my husband wasn't there," she says. "In the end, he went off saying he had a lot of other people to sell to. And do you know we actually wanted some double glazing?"

**LIZ GILL**

**COCOON COATS SALE**  
Big reductions of stock made "new orders. 'Cocoon Coats' are made to order. Night weight high quality minicoat, for men and women. Sold in one colour, and by mail order (catalogue). Made in Scotland where we know about ratio."

442 Campion Hill Road, Holland Park, W8, 071-221-7060  
22 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, 031-228-2227  
Worlebury and Stow, Worlebury, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Alexandria, Dunblane, 0309-859177 (01243)

**T**here is a moment in *The Paper Chase* — subtitled "How to Clear Your Desk" — when Dawn French lies whimpering across a pile of files while Jennifer Saunders tries to persuade her to throw them away.

The film's executive producer, Margaret Tree, might not be quite such a pathetic, but she understands that foible. "When we'd made the video we decided to have our own

## Success is simply a matter of failure

With the help of Britain's leading comedians, Margaret Tree has become a world leader in demonstrating to firms how not to go about their business



STEPHEN MARKSON

clear your desk day. We filled 70 black plastic sacks which is not bad for a staff of 64. You have to practise what you preach."

Since her company provides training programmes for industry and commerce this means implementing the sort of managerial, financial and organisational skills it teaches to others. The philosophy seems to have paid off.

From its beginnings 20 years ago, when John Cleese and Antony Jay made a film about after-sales service called *Who Sold You This, Then?*, Video Arts has grown to become number one in its field in this country and number two in the United States. Turnover last year was £13 million and a typical production has a budget of between £150,000 and £200,000.

Ms Tree, who was originally taken on as a production assistant on a three-week contract, became its joint managing director three years ago after she helped lead a £44 million management buy out. Last Friday the company became the first of its kind to receive a British Standards Institution award for excellence.

Ms Tree, who now has an office in Oxford Street, confesses to the occasional nostalgic hankering for the early

days when the company was run from her flat in Putney. "We had in effect a blank sheet of paper and we invented as we went along."

Many of the examples of bad practice in the films stem from real life. "After my secretarial training I went to work in a shipping office in the East End and it was an appalling experience. This guy did not even ask my name, it was 'do this, type that, will you do that, will you do that, even the common courtesies'."

Ms Tree is now Mr Cleese's boss, instead of the other way round. "He has a long-term contract but no title. He said he'd always fancied being an architect but we didn't think we could accommodate that."

In the early years casting was done on the basis of the founders' pals doing favours. Now there is a cachet to being asked. The work is also well-

paid and relatively swift: most films take about five days to make.

She has worked with almost

every comedian and character actor of note from Rowan Atkinson (who got his first film

role in one of their productions) through Fry and Laurie, Rik Mayall, Harry Enfield and Robert Lindsay to Julie Walters and Timothy West. Even the Prince of Wales contributed to

paying how to develop telephone skills, how to deal with customers. At the same time management is developing and changing all the time so you never run out of subjects."

The company now has 200

titles in 32 languages which can be rented for £140 for two days, for example, or bought outright for about £900. A best-seller might have been seen by as many as five million people world-wide.

The films work abroad because of this business of recognition: if something rings true it travels," she says. Japan, however, has remained unresponsive.

**O**nly Ms Tree wanted to be an actress; she became a secretary because her parents — her father was a clergyman in Wales — insisted on a secretarial course followed by six months of work to prove she could support herself. A job at Rediffusion Television convinced her she wanted to make programmes and at 43 she has never regretted her decision. "I did once play John's secretary in one of our early productions but I never want to be in front of the camera now. I wouldn't stop my daughter going on the stage, though, but she says what she wants to be is a marine biologist."

Ms Tree took five months off to have Holly, now 13, juggling work and home in the years since with the help of daily nannies and husband George Nicholson, a former

# If it doesn't fit, then flaunt it

Grunge, like punk, was born out of rebellion. Now, also like punk, it is slouching from the street to high chic

**Fashion**

IAIN R. WEBB

Just when it looked as if things were slowing down, and the thrill of dressing in Gap T-shirts was beginning to wear thin, a moment or two before it appeared that the recession was here for ever, and nothing was ever going to get customers back into the stores, something happened.

Grunge is probably the most talked about phenomenon since punk, and indeed there are parallels between the two. Both originated as street fashion, both have music as their focus, and grunge appears to be achieving cult status among the fashionable faces of New York, in much the same way that punk was picked up by middle class art students in London. Already the fall-out surrounding grunge echoes the effect which punk had on fashion and the media in the late 1970s.

Although grunge is now the buzzword on the lips of the beau monde, it first surfaced in America as a sub-culture at the tail end of the Reagan years, when two groups, Sonic Youth and The Butthole Surfers, pinpointed the malaise of disaffected youth, and its rejection of Wall Street values. A year or so ago the only music listened to in photographic studios in every fashion capital was that of the band Nirvana. Everybody had the album, *Nevermind*, and everybody loved the new sound of Seattle.

Of course, with the sound goes the look. Like the music it takes an anti-stance. In America this summer the box office favourite with the fashionable cognoscenti was a film called *Singles* which provided a template for the grunge image – an “I-don’t-care-about-fashion” look which has itself become a fashion formula. Warty T-shirts, stripey pants, checkered shirts all meticulously thrown together. Mismatching just perfectly.

At the recent New York collections it was easy to see that designers Marc Jacobs, Christian Francis Roth, and Anna Sui were in tune with the new grunge way of thinking. They are among the younger hippie-than-thou image-makers who spend their leisure hours watching MTV, and listening to the latest sounds. Previously, all three designers had shown their colours by sending out on to the runways 1970s-inspired fashions which resembled East Village flea market finds. It is this trinity which has gone mad for grunge, and focused the ailing industry on a new way of wearing what for most must appear old clothes. Mr Jacobs, who designs the Perry Ellis range, sees grunge as “a hippied romantic version of punk”, paraphrasing the crossover of references and imagery into one succinct sentence.

Grunge draws its inspiration from various sources. It would be difficult to identify exactly where and when it began, as its global cross-pollination is all-important to the end result. For several seasons in Paris the deconstructivist movement of design has been spearheaded by Helmut Lang, Martin Margiela, Jean Colonna and even, although she is technically part of the establishment, Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons. Between them a new silhouette was born, with long skinny arms, long droopy skirts, and inside-out construction. Their clothes delighted the avant-garde and the very young. Among them was the fashion editor of British *Elle*, Anna Cockburn.

Two seasons ago Ms Cockburn



Maroon/black stripe blazer, £295, by Moschino Cheap & Chic at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Blue/gold/red check silk shirt, £60 approx, by Fenn Wright & Mason from selected branches of John Lewis.

Cherry/grey/white stripe polo neck sweater, £43, Benetton stores nationwide (071-731 4554). Red and black lights (worn as hat), £3.85, Jonathan Aston Ringers from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, W1.

sat at the foot of a catwalk in Paris watching Linda Evangelista model a Comme des Garçons military-style greatcoat, bereft of sleeves, unfinished seams trailing in the wind. She must have smiled inside. There she sat in her Laurence Corner second-hand military great coat (much too big for her tiny frame) trailing the floor, her skinny rib sweater too tight, her hair chopped and spiky, looking as though she had given the scissors to her little sister and said, “Go ahead – do your worst”. The end effect was a kind of Shirley Partridge post-punk coiffure, which has become the second favourite style of forward-thinking hairstylists. Most-favoured was the “just-let-it-grow-and-flow” look, as worn by Kate Moss, the model of the moment who embodies grunge with her little girl looks. She is the antithesis of supermodel glamour.

But what then, you must be thinking, does all this have to do with me?

As with punk, which began as a

squid-looking street fashion but

soon graduated into the system, immortalised in ripped silk jersey and jewelled safety pins by Zandra Rhodes, the after-effects of grunge will turn the fashion world about face. The dramatic change in style will have customers queuing as the new goods are delivered, or at the very least approaching their wardrobes with a refreshed eye.

The look is very much about styling, putting clothes together in a different way. Or, in the case of Christian Francis Roth and his Miss-like hat made from socks, working things from a new angle. The hat worn by the model in our picture is simply a pair of tights knotted and pinned into place. The overall effect is extreme, clothes are either too small or too big. They are draped around the body, layer upon layer, and yet still manage to reveal flesh. The clothes designed by Roth, Jacobs and Sui are inspirational, they will be worn by very few, but their effect will be felt by anyone interested in fashion. Mr Roth is not a great designer, but what he has done with this

latest collection is epitomise a feeling. “It’s something from the soul of the designer,” he says. What Mr Roth’s soul is saying has been noted and refined by more experienced, merchandise-orientated designers. At the same collections in New York, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Donna Karan all presented shows which embodied grunge consciousness. This overpowering drift towards something new will filter into trends for 1993. So what to look out for? Layers are all important, sheer chiffons, silk jerseys and linens keep the look light and floaty. Unconstructed outlines make much of the body, dresses droop, and trousers (bell-bottomed or just wide) fall low on the hip. Nothing is supposed to fit, be it little shrunken sweaters, or patterns (florals, stripes and plaids) which don’t match. Shoes are chunky, as a foil for the lightweight looks. The impression is liquid, but if you’re still not sure, read the T-shirt. With youthful arrogance it tells you what to think: This is wonderful.

“This is wonderful” black T-shirt, £25 approx, by Antoni & Alison at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Liberty, Regent Street, SW1; Maison, 46-49 Neal Street, WC2; American Retro, 35 Old Compton Street, W1. Long button-through navy/white polka dot dress, £54.99; Next Directory, Style No M90341 (0345 100 500). Long button-through black crêpe lace dress by Ghost (available in January), £234, at Whistles shops nationwide; Joanne Tint, 289 Kings Road, SW3. Wide black/white polka dot jersey trousers, £49.75, by Jean Muir to order; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Lucienne Phillips, Knightsbridge, SW1; Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly; Robell, Baker Street, W1; Palmers, Motcomb Street, SW1; Olive Walton, 137 Worcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham. Black suede desert boots, £35.99, by Clarks from Shellys, all London branches (081-450 0066). Photographs: Marilyn Thompson. Make-up: Sharon Lee. Hair: Adam Meli for Smithers-Jones of Hampstead using hairpieces from Trendco, 229 Kensington Church Street, W8, or mail-order 0273 774971/777503

## Designer guide to the perfect mismatch



“Hippy, punk, romance”: designs by (from left) Marc Jacobs (two outfits for Perry Ellis), Christian Francis Roth, Anna Sui

## A chance to get in on the Fashion Acts

FASHION Acts was launched in 1987 as an initiative to raise money for people affected by Aids. Its latest spectacular, the Fashion Acts charity fashion show on Friday at Earls Court 2, London, promises an exclusive peek at the international collections, plus a preview of many spring-summer 1993 ranges, and the chance to see how eight national newspapers interpret fashion trends as they each create a scene in a specially commissioned segment. This

will include a unique creation by the fashion editor of *The Times*.

Tickets are available at £25, £20, and £15 from the Earls Court box office (071-370 8399) but Fashion Acts is offering ten £20 tickets free to readers of *The Times*. Requests on a postcard with your name, address and daytime phone number to: Fashion Department, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first ten postcards will receive free tickets.

## Making the link

BUYING presents for women, young or old, is easy. Trying to find something for Uncle Harry, nephew Tom, or brother Dick is quite another matter. As the run-up to Christmas becomes mad dash, it is comforting to find store which can provide treats for all the male members of your family under one roof.

Off The Cuff has had a good year, and is celebrating by opening its fourth (and largest) store in London’s West End. The merchandise is spe-

cifically aimed at men, although, with the vogue for menswear styling, it will interest women looking for accessories to complete the image.

From silk embroidered waistcoats for less than £20, through a vast selection of ties which run from the amusing to the serious, braces, boxer shorts, cuff links, and cravats, it is an Aladdin’s cave of not only useful, but unusual items which will certainly be far more appreciated than those grey socks were last year.

Off The Cuff, 350 Oxford Street, London W1 (new store) and nationwide.

## Feasting at Harvey's

AFTER kitting out the entire family, and home, from the first four floors (and basement) of Harvey Nichols department store, it is reassuring to know that it is now possible to fill your kitchen shelves on their fifth floor, which houses a food hall and restaurant. The food hall is packed with all manner of delicacies, and Harvey Nichols’ own-brand label necessities, such as tea, coffee, jams, marmalades and mustards, strikingly packaged in silver, black and white.



Hartnell's last royal bride: Princess Margaret

## Dressed like a princess

HARTNELL is closing but the clothes will live on. As the royal couriers were shutting up shop, The Wedding Company was snapping up the range of wedding dresses created for Hartnell (whose last royal bride was Princess Bohemian).

The Deluxe Wedding Dress Collection was to have been marketed by Hartnell at prices ranging from £3,000 to £16,000. Now it will be offered at prices from £1,250 to £4,500 in a sale to be held next weekend. The dresses, in sizes 8 to 12, are made in chiffon, embroidered duchess satin and taffeta dupion, and feature fine lace and jewelled necklines.

Appointments can be made to view the collection by telephoning 081-336 2117 or 081-949 1999. The Wedding Company sale will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London, from noon to 6pm on Saturday and from 10am to 4pm on Sunday.

## Big Reductions on Brother Laser Printers

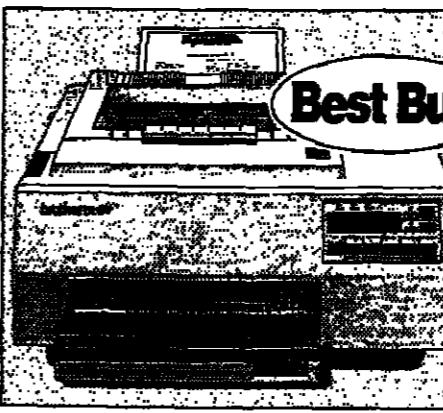
with FREE 3 Year On-site Warranty

Brother HL-4VE  
only £649 + VAT

Best Buy



- 4 Pages per minute
- 1Mb buffer
- Exceptional print quality with 3 scalable fonts and 64 grey scales
- Auto switching interface and emulation
- Advanced text and graphics
- High resolution control
- HP LaserJet IIIP compatible



Brother HL-8V  
only £799 + VAT

- 8 Pages per minute
- 1Mb buffer
- Exceptional print quality with 3 scalable fonts and 64 grey scales
- Auto switching interface and emulation
- Advanced text and graphics
- High resolution control
- HP LaserJet III compatible

Best Buys

FREEPHONE  
0800 317 307

AFTER HOURS Answer Service:

081-514 7887

Fax: 081-553 3343

Showroom: 533 High Road, ILFORD, Essex IG1 1TZ



Matthew Parris

■ Mixed-up babies are the visible face of a human identity crisis

**T**he news that a hospital has mistakenly substituted one baby for another raises a number of large issues, none of which I plan to address. For instance, we cannot yet be sure whether this really was a mistake, or part of Mr Major's vision of a classless society, like the recent jumbling up of names and results in the schools' examination league tables. This issue I shall ignore.

And we should brace ourselves to resist with scepticism the avalanche of new appeals against birth certificates which must be about to engulf our medico-legal system. Every so often, as we all know, a white mother surprises her white husband and family by giving birth to a black baby; and the custom has been to blame the mother. Her protestations have been treated as routine and disregarded. But now I expect that thousands of women who in their time have been turned out into the snow, noisily divorced or quietly put aside, will be marching on the Department of Health at the Elephant and Castle to demand justice. This prospect, too, I shall ignore.

Just as I shall ignore the likelihood that for huge numbers of children the news will confirm what has always been their hunch: that the people who claim to be their parents cannot possibly be their real ones. The day the hospital's error was confirmed, literally millions of us must have read the story and thought:

"Hm. I wonder..." I know I did. From the day my father spent my name wrong for the first time, and the day my mother took me aged six, to a fancy dress party as "Christmas Past", dressed in a nappy with a big safety pin, I have always known that I was really somebody else's child. My sister, wrapped in crepe paper as "Christmas Present" for the same competition, and my brother Roger, who was forced to go completely naked as "Christmas to Come", have never entirely recovered from the scars. My brother was only four and too small to rebel. My sister's complaint was not that she was wrapped, but that she was so *badly* wrapped. All three of us realised at once that our apparent parents must have kidnapped us at birth. There can hardly be a reader who cannot recall being seated with a similar conviction.

**N**or — Christmas being in our thoughts — can it be long before one of the trendier Church of England bishops takes the opportunity to shock us by speculating that we now have an explanation for the so-called virgin birth. Mary was set up. She was homeless, and not pregnant at all: just tired and fat, like many women.

A victim of the incompetent management of an opt-out Bethlehem hospital trust which had ended up with a spare baby, the rough-sleeping Mary's indisposition in the stable was used by the visiting district nurse as a cover to plant the child. In their horror (the bishop will suggest) she and Joseph made up the story about the angel afterwards. The bishop will conclude with a denunciation of Tory policies on the NHS, and homelessness, and ask us to see the real message of Christmas behind every box in cardboard city at Waterloo Station.

Outraged MPs will call for his dismissal. From this, too, your columnist turns aside...

To the only question, arising from the hospital blunder, which really interests me. It is this: does it really matter which baby you're home?

Would it make the least difference to our world if maternity clinic matrons had for years been operating a secret lottery with newborn babies? How many driers would truly know the difference if the expensive wine the wine waiter opened with such flourish at their table was not the one they ordered? Without the label to guide us, how many would spot the difference if the Ashbourne water we requested turned out to be Malvern, or Perrier? Can I really distinguish between Bells and Grants? What, anyway, between friends, is one baby as opposed to another? And does it matter whether the Rodin you so proudly display is a "real" Rodin, or a "copy"?

You may be sure that these questions provoke an angry and confused response wherever they are asked. They touch a raw nerve among wine-fanciers, whisky drinkers, mothers, art-lovers and connoisseurs of bottled water. They do so for a good reason. They expose an area of unconscious philosophical anxiety. It is the question we call the question of identity.

**D**oes it matter that this skull is the actual skull of Tsar Nicholas? We feel that it does. Why does it matter? We are lost for an answer. Does it matter that this is a genuine Matisse, rather than just a perfect, indistinguishable copy? We feel that it must. Why does it matter? We know we cannot say.

Does it make any difference that this is the child of my love, rather than somebody else's? Throughout history there has been little that mattered more. But can I justify it? Can I provide the argument? Can I say why my attitude toward the child should change if I knew this particular configuration of human cells was not "mine"? Even before trying, I know that any attempt to venture into logic would be disastrous and would end in an unconvinced conclusion.

Every scientific argument, every practical test, must lead inescapably to this observation: that differences between things or creatures which relate not to any quality in them which can now be discerned, or any characteristic they now exhibit, or ability they now possess — but relate, instead, to some presumed fact about their origin — cannot alter their present value to us. Not, anyway, on an objective view. That — with part of our mind — we know.

But with another part of our mind we know that they can. We are uncomfortably aware of the inconsistency. Occurrences which remind us of it are disturbing, for they remind us of a lie which is quite important to us: the lie of "identity". Identity, you see, is a sort of lie: a vain construct of the human imagination. We do know that underneath.

Careless hospitals, clever art forgers, and the manufacturers of fake Swiss watches, should therefore watch out: you touch us where it hurts.

Britain's relationship with America will benefit from a delay in the two leaders meeting, writes Peter Riddell

**T**hirty-two years ago a Conservative prime minister was apprehensive about the arrival of a new and self-confident Democratic president in place of an old and trusted Republican friend in the White House. Harold Macmillan was worried that he might not seem "relevant" to the much younger Jack Kennedy. In the event, they worked well together.

Echoes of these earlier doubts are now being heard in Whitehall, reinforced by the news yesterday that John Major would not, after all, be seeing president-elect Bill Clinton on his visit to Washington in just over 10 days' time. Mr Clinton has done Mr Major a favour by delaying a meeting, but has himself missed an opportunity.

The great danger in British-American relations is of self-delusion, of mistaking close working ties for an automatic identity of interest. That much-abused term the special relationship obscures more than it clarifies. It is never used in Washington and has never applied to economics and trade. But Britain does have an unusually close relationship with America on defence and intelligence

matters, and at a working level between diplomats. Britain has always sought to act as a candid friend, affecting American decisions through private discussions rather than by public protests.

The reliable ally approach can give Britain a high level of influence at crucial times when an American president has not made up his mind as during the early stages of the Gulf crisis. Margaret Thatcher was a skilful operator in Washington during the 1980s. But that influence should not be exaggerated and sentimentalised.

American national interests always come first.

The relationship was bound to experience a jolt with a change of president. "Good old Brent Scowcroft", and other long-serving officials will go, to be replaced by the largely unknown — unknown at least in London, although Sir Robin Renwick and the British Embassy in Washington have for some months discreetly been

making contacts with Mr Clinton's advisers.

The adjustment to the new team will take time. Not too much should be made of alleged anger among Mr Clinton's campaign team at the involvement of Tory officials in advising the Bush campaign, or of the Home Office searching its files about the Democrat. Neither is the best start to the Clinton-Major relationship, but the campaign is over and its resentments will soon be forgotten. The campaign strategists will not be in charge of foreign policy. Mr Clinton's goodwill message yesterday underlined the mutual interest in avoiding talk of snubs or rifts.

More important, and comparable to 1960-61, is the contrast of ideology between Mr Major as the defender of the Conserva-

tive revolution of the 1980s and Mr Clinton as the standard-bearer of a change to more active government. In practice, the differences will be smaller in policy than in rhetoric, and will anyway be less in foreign than domestic policy. But differences there will be.

Delaying a meeting with the new president gives Mr Major a chance to take stock, rather than to assume that the previous relationship will continue unchanged. There are several possible difficulties, including the future of Trident. It is better to delay a meeting until the Clinton foreign policy team is in place in the new year, as Douglas Hurd always planned.

Mr Clinton may, however, be the loser from delaying talks with Mr Major and other leaders. He needs to hear European concerns if he is to avoid early errors abroad. While, understandably, he wants to make America's economic and domestic difficulties a priority, he cannot relegate foreign policy.

means maintaining a lowest common denominator policy of not confronting the Greeks. If EC unity cannot be maintained, too bad. Britain, along with France and Germany, should work on a policy to prevent Serbian expansion with the specific aim of involving America.

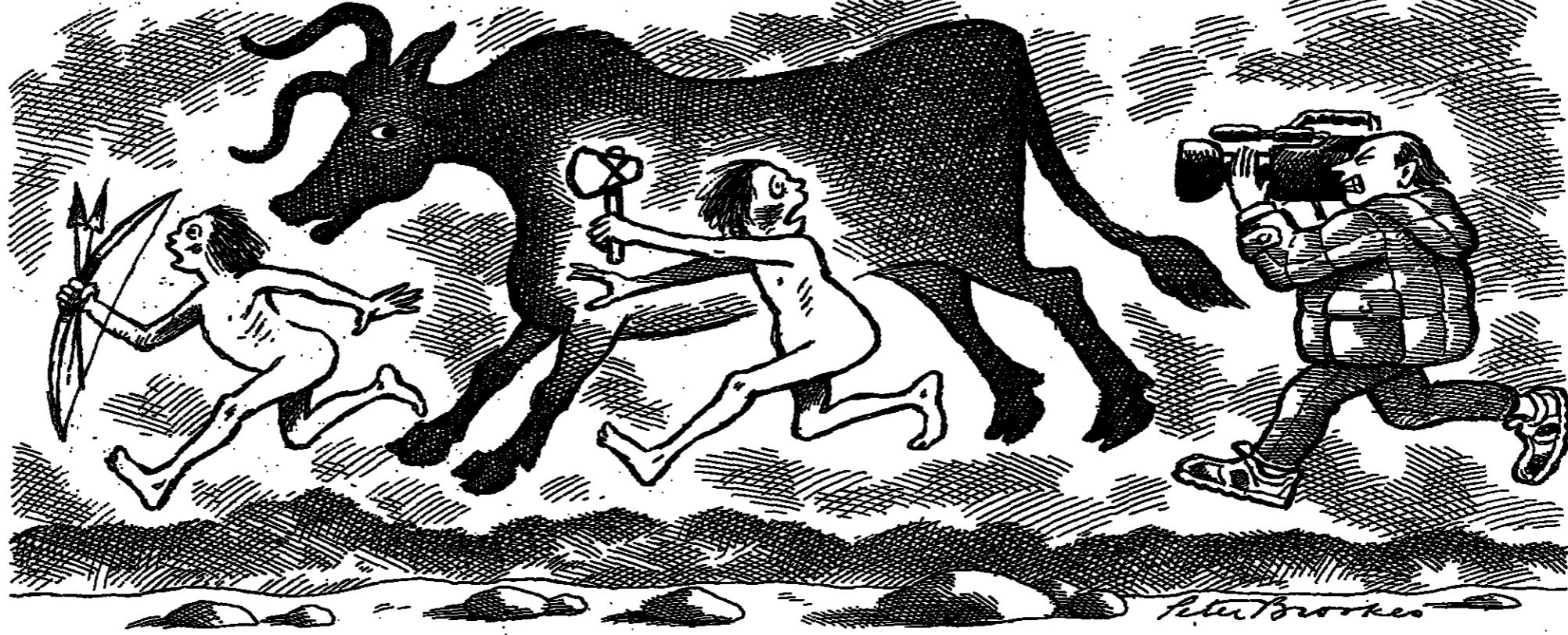
Following the end of the Cold war, the extent of American participation in Europe is no longer primarily to do with the number of troops permanently on the ground. More significant is the level of political interest and activity. That in turn depends on European attitudes, which are at present ambiguous. President Mitterrand has been behaving as if he wants to make self-fulfilling his belief that America will withdraw from Europe.

Mr Major's personal standing at present is not high either in the EC or in America. So he should not overplay a weak hand. But, when the Clinton team is in place, he does have a role and an opportunity. It is the traditional British one of preventing European and American policies from moving away from each other. Harold Macmillan would have understood.

## Will Clinton be 'special'?

RIDDELL  
ON MONDAY

## Welcome to the Ghoul Age



### Stone Age man is better off dead and buried, says Bernard Levin

people have? William Golding's *The Inheritors* is so masterly a work that we are fairly hypnotised into believing such ceremonies took place not just among the people of the Stone Age but among — as Golding's figures were — pre-men.

But what about my complaint? It takes the form of a rebuke to grave robbers, however respectable the robbing. If you and I met a man who had been dead for 5,000 years, I trust that our first feeling, and our last, would be of awe: surely we would tiptoe away and let him go to sleep again. But the Austrian experts know not awe: they are now examining this man from the world's past, excitedly demonstrating that he was stretched out, not curled up, from which they deduce that he was not cold when he lay down.

Moreover, "cold, dry autumn winds must have desiccated the body", and so they might; but what disturbs me is that the body in question is now "being kept in a freezer at the University of Innsbruck medical

school", though until those hikers came along it was being kept in a freezer on a silent mountain, and had been there for some two-and-a-half thousand years before 'ome smote 'is bloomin' lyre.

Why do we have to know everything, particularly when in fact we know nothing? A Stone Age man died, and the eternal snows covered him. But when the hikers came down and saw what they had found, was there no one among the posse assembled for the climb up the mountain to say "leave him alone"? Instead, along came Herr Markus Egg, and he is now "studying the man's artefacts" at the Romisch-Germanisches-Zentralmuseum, in Mainz, Germany. Why is he doing that, and why isn't he studying his wife's horrible new hat instead?

Because the human race has become a race of nosy parkers, demanding to know things that

not, when he had got over his astonishment at our technology, think that the Stone Age man died? Would he not shudder at the dirt and cruelty, the folly and hate, the vanity and greed, the crime and punishment, the aimlessness and ignorance, the bloody wars and the dishonest peace?

What does he know, or wish to know, of the million child prostitutes in India, of the starvation in Somalia, of the 30,000 murders a year in the United States? When he looks up at the sky — much the same sky as when he was alive — would he not be puzzled when he could not see the stars for the filth with which we have filled our atmosphere? When he sees trains and aeroplanes, and asks what the people in them are going to do, would he be able to understand the answer, which is that they are going to return from whence they came?

It is too late for a call to leave him alone in his ice-still grave. But it is not too soon for us, if we have any imagination, to demand that when they have discovered from him what there is to be discovered (which is nothing), they should put him back exactly where he was to sleep for another 5,000 years.

## DIARY



She is anxious that public attention may focus on the book's gestation at the expense of its content. She need not worry. Victoria Glendinning, who has just published a biography of Anthony Trollope, says: "Some people have one book that they take their whole life to write. Some never even finish their book. The fact that it is going to be published must be a good thing. Mine usually take about four or five years to write."

● Whatever else the Princess Royal is expecting as a second-wedding present from her mother when she marries Tim Laurence at Crathie, it is unlikely to be a Fabergé egg. The Queen has proved loath to part with a single item from her collection of the great jeweller's work. While other members of the family have lent pieces to a Fabergé exhibition that opened at Wartski Jewellers in London

emphasise that the film, *In the Name of the Father*, will be the story of an innocent family rather than a political diatribe. "It's about clearing their names," says Sheridan. "I'm not interested in the political aspect. All I like doing is making good stories." Hard to avoid in this case, perhaps.

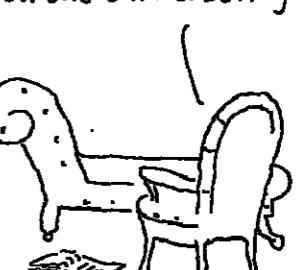
● Drive a Porsche? This advertisement, spotted under windscreen wipers in Kensington, could be of interest. To foil the new police cameras, it suggests spending £18.75 on a can of Photo Faze, "a spray that when applied to a number plate reflects the flashgun's dazzle into the camera lens, blurring the image [and] preventing an invasion of your privacy". At the bottom, in small print, it reads: "Whilst it is not an offence to manufacture, sell or own this product, use of it may constitute an offence." Good to know.

### Furniture complex

SIGMUND FREUD'S couch, upon which patients lay to describe their innermost thoughts for 40 years, is to tour Europe along with the green velvet armchair in which the great psychoanalyst sat throughout his sessions. Proceeds of the travelling exhibi-

tion to Paris, Rome and Berlin next autumn, are to replenish the increasingly empty coffers of London's Freud Museum, expecting a £85,000 shortfall next year. Erica Davies, museum director, hopes the exhibition will

you say you feel dull and uninteresting



resurrect interest in Freud. "His couch is a symbol of freedom just as his life was a continual search for the freedom for the individual," says Dr Davies. "I don't know why, but people in Britain do not seem that interested. We have asked successive arts ministers to visit, without any success. We have just had a letter from Pete Brook saying he is too busy to come." David Mellor, one, suspects, might have found the experience a little too close to home.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 5: The Duke of York, Patron, this morning attended the Falkland Islands Association's Wreath-laying

Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London SW1.  
Captain Rupert Maitland-Tinerton was in attendance.

### Today's royal engagements

The Prince and Princess of Wales will attend the Royal Variety Performance at Dominion Palace Theatre at 7.25.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, will host a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.30.

Princess Alexandra will attend a concert at the Festival Hall at 7.15 in aid of Red Cross assistance in the former Yugoslavia.

### Birthdays today

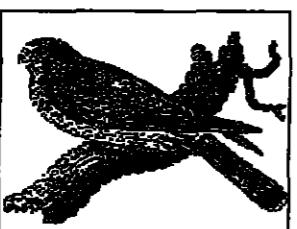
Sir Fred Atkinson, civil servant, 73; Viscount Boyd of Merton, 53; Mr Donald Crichton-Miller, former headmaster, Fettes College and Stowe School, 66; Judge Lord Elstan-Morgan, 60; Mr David Evans, trade unionist, 57; Mr Kaffe Fassett, textile designer, 55; Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg, physician, 69.

Professor N. Gowar, principal, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, 52; Sir Bryan Hopkin, civil servant, 78; Mr Victor Kiam, international president, Remington, 66; the Countess of Limerick, chairman, British Red Cross Society, 57; Mr Ivor Mills, writer and broadcaster, 63; Mr Sydney Sarmistene, British Film Commissioner, 67; the Rev R.C. Troumou, former principal, St Chad's College, Durham, 60; Mr Eli Wallach, actor, 77; Miss Helen Watts, opera singer, 65.

### Dinner

**Association of Old Brightonians**  
Mr and Mrs G.W. Lees were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Association of Old Brightonians held on Saturday at Brighton College. Mr S.J. Cockburn, president, was in the chair and Mr J.D. Leach, headmaster, also spoke.

### Nature notes



The kestrel

ON FROSTY mornings, robins sing vigorously, looking up at them in the branches from directly beneath you might think they had white breasts, there is such a large area of white feathers below the red.

Blackbirds gather under the trees where the ground is not frozen so hard and there is a greater chance of pulling out an earthworm: it is ground-feeders like these which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

marble gall or oak-apples are conspicuous, now dry and brown and deserted by the gall-wasp which grows in them as grub; the small hole in each shows where the wasp came out. Oaks are infested by about 500 species of insect, more than any other tree, but they rarely come to any harm by it.

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM

the kestrel

is a ground-feeder which most need bread put out for them. Blackbirds are independent, quarrelsome birds, but they immediately fly for cover like a flock if a kestrel appears in the sky.

Daisies are still in flower among the frozen grass, often half-open with their red underside showing. Some of them survive the worst of winters. The few leaves still clinging on the elm hedges are a rich, clouded yellow. On oak trees,

DJM



## NEWS

**Swiss jolt European unity hopes**

■ The hopes John Major has of rescuing European unity at next weekend's Edinburgh summit were jolted yesterday by the Swiss, who voted against links with a free-trade area of the 12 EC states and the seven Efta countries

The prime minister, who with Douglas Hurd, his foreign secretary, embarked yesterday on a final round of meetings in European capitals in an attempt to iron out a deal for the summit, had championed the cause of enlarging the Community..... Pages 1, 10, 15

**Zealots plunge India into turmoil**

■ India appeared set on a course of religious confrontation after tens of thousands of Hindu zealots tore down an ancient mosque in Ayodhya yesterday. The mosque's three domes crashed down as police failed to intervene..... Pages 1, 11

**Princess weds**

The wedding of the Princess Royal to Commander Timothy Laurence will be at Craftie church, near Balmoral, next Saturday afternoon before 30 invited guests..... Pages 1, 3

**Bogus jobless**

Many employers are exaggerating the threat of job losses to impress shareholders and take advantage of a loophole in accounting practice that will be closed next June..... Page 1

**Lashes appeal**

David Brown, a British hospital manager working in Saudi Arabia, is to appeal against a sentence of 50 public lashes of a bamboo cane imposed for swearing at his staff..... Page 2

**Schools cuts**

Avon are expected to become the first of many local authorities to cut education services for next year to bring budgets within government spending limits..... Page 4

**Prudent doctors**

Huge savings have been made in the first year of the fundholding scheme by family doctors who hold their own hospital budgets..... Page 4

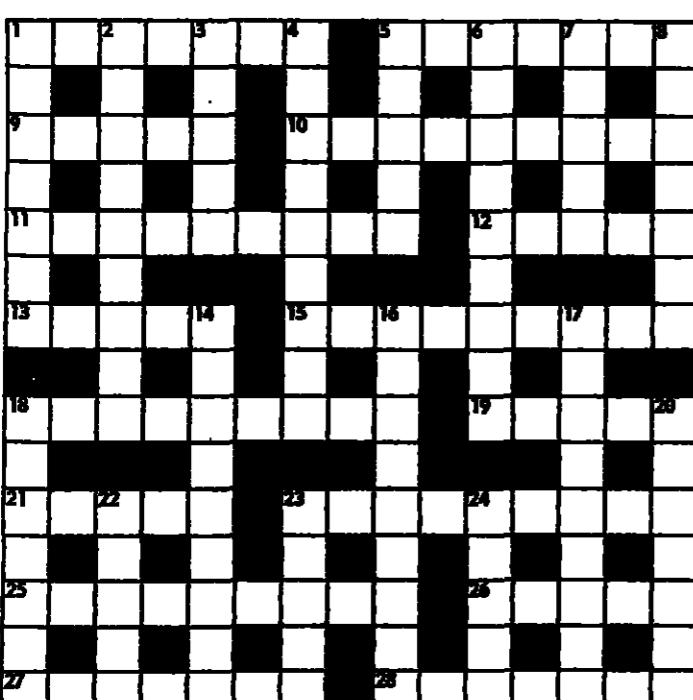
**Yeltsin hangs on**

President Yeltsin just survived an attempt by the Russian Congress of People's Deputies to curb his powers as leader when a key vote to strip him of the right to appoint his own ministers failed by four votes..... Page 10

**Don't drink and drive or dawdle**

Drunken pedestrians can pose their own problems on the roads this Christmas. The government's transport research laboratory says that of pedestrians killed in the last two hours before midnight last year, four out of five had been drinking and two out of three—a total of 460—had been over the legal driving limit..... Page 5

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,095



**ACROSS**

- He'll put on one, having many a problem (7).
- Adds extra point to the score (5,2).
- Set speed the inexperienced driver must keep within (5).
- The Parisienne upset poor men as a career (9).
- Not involved—not backing the fool (9).
- Remove "Times" editorial for a start (5).
- Anything in a trough tempts pigs (5).
- Having a single manual worker take heed and no mistake! (3-6).
- Service for those wanting a late meal (6-3).
- Left livestock in the South of England (5).
- Before noon she should be in the States (5).

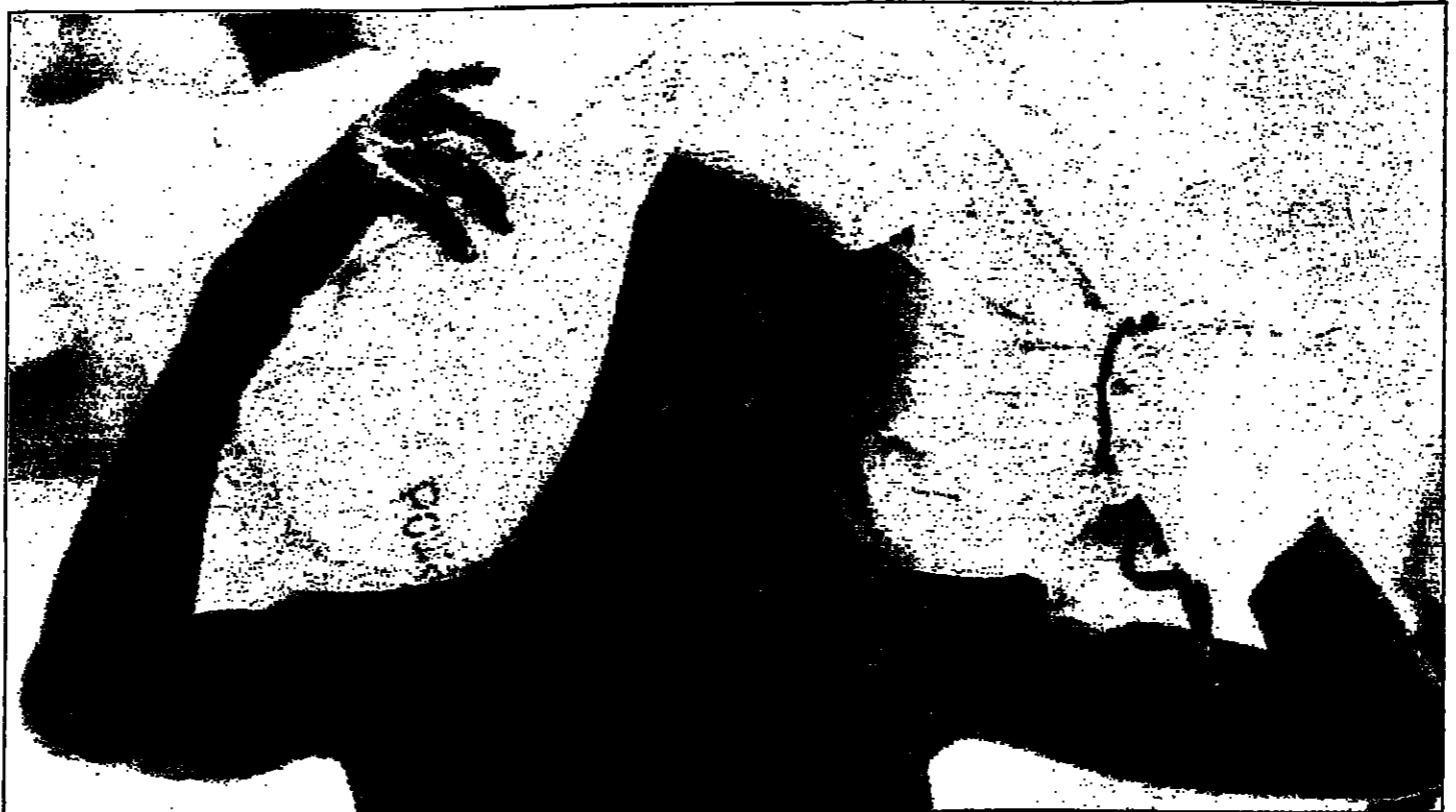
**DOWN**

- Laid on thick by the painter (7).
- Game MP rating a free trip (9).
- Charming words put into letters (5).
- Family accounts (9).
- Plant with a single name (5).
- Check all news to broadcast (9).
- Boy standing up super girl (5).
- Indicate there's some wine to finish off (7).
- Green tea's brewed specially for young people (9).
- The look-out man appears uncommonly green (9).
- Depressed Conservatives will be unequivocal (9).
- It goes a long way down river, the start of the Pacific Ocean (4-3).
- "My \_\_\_\_\_ for a palmer's walking staff" (Richard II) (7).
- Not fitting into a drill (5).
- Man about town told to carry cash (5).
- Opposed to going in alone to explain (5).

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of  
Saturday's Prize  
Puzzle No 19,094 will  
appear next Saturday.  
The 5 winners will  
receive a Duofold  
fountain pen supplied  
by Parker

Concise Crossword, page 36



Long haul: A Somali port worker carries two bags of rice from a French aid ship on to the beach north of Mogadishu. Page 11

**Ban upheld**

Serbia's electoral commission has upheld a ban on the presidential candidature of the Yugoslav prime minister, Milan Panic. It has ruled that Mr Panic cannot contest elections because he has not lived in the republic long enough..... Page 9

**Somali loot**

Some aid workers in Somalia have moved most of their staff and stopped work in a number of areas because of the threat of local gunmen who have launched a series of last-minute looting raids before the first batch of American troops arrive in the country..... Page 11

**Drugs help**

A support group has been set up by a woman in Lancashire for females who have been abused by men taking anabolic steroids..... Page 7

**Fly fish**

Angling devotees go to court in Swindon today to seek thousands of pounds damages for the ravages to brown trout fishing grounds allegedly caused by the invasion of farm-bred rainbow trout..... Page 6

**Good relations**

Sir Robin McLaren, the British ambassador to China, said that despite Peking's angry attacks on Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, Britain's relations with the Chinese remained good..... Page 11

**Football**

Mark Hughes scored his third goal in three games to win the Manchester derby for United at Old Trafford. Eric Cantona, recently signed from Leeds, appeared briefly as a substitute..... Page 19

**Cricket**

After six trouble-free weeks, India's "friendship tour" of South Africa has encountered its first anti-tour demonstrators when the visitors arrived in Cape Town to play tonight's first, one-day international, for which additional security measures have been taken to please unruly spectators..... Page 21

**Golf**

Nick Faldo admitted yesterday that his disqualification from the Sun City Million Dollar Challenge for signing an incorrect scorecard "served me right". Nick Price of Zimbabwe was also disqualified from the tournament which was won by the American-based South African David Frost..... Page 20

**Warning signs**

The UN economic commission, which has been sharply critical of radical reform policies being pursued by Russia and other eastern European states, has warned in its bulletin for Europe of the dangers of those policies being derailed if political realities are ignored..... Page 33

**Breathing space**: The troubled Irish aircraft leasing organisation, GPA Group, is able to continue negotiating a rescheduling of its debt after bankers agreed a series of waivers on the company's \$3.5 billion borrowings..... Page 36

**Driven into a corner**: Carjacking, a new street crime in which men force their way into cars driven by women and attack them, is the latest urban terror. But Linda Grant asks, how real are the dangers, and how much have they been exaggerated by media scaremongering?..... Page 12

**Royally pleased**: "Oh, we are pleased about the Princess Royal. By we, I mean the natural Anne fans, a legion of slightly foxed, travel-weary working women on the shady side of 40, who identify ever more closely with her as the years go by." Libby Purves on why the latest royal engagement marks a happy return to reality..... Page 27

**Rattigan rarity**: Terence Rattigan's *After the Dance* was a failure in 1939, but Saturday's BBC 2 television adaptation showed that it still has resonance..... Page 28

**Stage or screen 1**: Successful stage shows used often to become films; nowadays the traffic is just as likely to be the other way. A theatrical version of *Misery*, Stephen King's novel-turned-Oscar-winning-film, is the latest example, about to open in the West End..... Page 27

**Stage or screen 2**: The Royal Ballet is presenting a live version of Sir Frederick Ashton's children's film favourite, *Tales of Beatrix Potter*, but the stage piece fails to please John Percival..... Page 27

**Cutting edge**: How many children are undermining the education system by missing school? Truants are expert at not being there to answer researchers' questions..... Page 31

**Teaching horror**: Regardless of the lessons to be derived from the Holocaust, there is no sense whatever in ascribing its execution to Satanic monsters..... Page 31

**A perfect mismatch**: "The effect is extreme, clothes are either too small or too big. They are draped around the body, layer upon layer, and still manage to reveal flesh." Ian R. Webb analyses the street-chic appeal of grunge..... Page 13

**PETER RIDDELL**

Bill Clinton... needs to hear European concerns if he is to avoid early errors abroad. While, understandably, he wants to make America's economic and domestic difficulties a priority, he cannot relegate foreign policy..... Page 14

**BERNARD LEVIN**

A Stone Age man died, and the eternal snows covered him. But when the hikers came down and related what they had found, was there no one among the possessors assembled for the climb up the mountain to say "leave him alone"?..... Page 14

**BBC television**

is second only to Parliament in ignoring the interests of Britain's 29 million women, argues Lesley Abdela..... Page 15

**George Bush**

could have passed Somalia on to Bill Clinton. But he... has found a fit task for his presidency's final days

— *The Washington Post*

**Central and southern England and Wales**

and Wales will be bright with some sunshine and scattered showers, most of them in the southwest. It will cloud over from the north late in the day with outbreaks of rain. Scotland and northern England and Wales will be mostly cloudy and wet with rain heavy and prolonged in places. The far north may become drier and clearer later. Windy and cold in the north and west.

**AA traffic and roadworks**

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**London & SE traffic, roadworks**

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**National motorways**

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**West Country**

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**Midlands**

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Humidity: 83%. Wind: 8pm to 8am, 10mph. Bar: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. 1,000 millions falling. 29.53m.

**AA Roadwatch**

Yesterday: Temp: max 80m to 8pm, 8C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm, 10.24. Sun: 24hr to 8pm, 2.7hr. Waves: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Tides: 8pm to 8am, 2.5m. Water level: 8pm to

**SPORT 19-26**

Non-league clubs keep Cup hopes alive

**ARTS 27-29**

Why put a good film on the stage?

**BUSINESS 32-36**

GPA's plan for debt rescheduling cleared for takeoff

**TELEVISION AND RADIO Page 35**

# THE TIMES 2

MONDAY DECEMBER 7 1992

## Gollop makes the most of outside chance



Driving force: A late switch in starting position gave Will Gollop, from Whitstable in Kent, victory on a treacherous track ahead of his fellow Britons, John Welch and Barry Squibb, at the

Autoglass British Rally Cross grand prix at Brands Hatch yesterday (Stephen Slater writes).

Gollop, driving a turbocharged MG Metro 6R4, had qualified for pole

position for the final, but in view of the track conditions he opted to start from the outside of the track rather than the customary inside position. It was a decision soon to be vindicated.

As the lights turned to green, Gollop's principal rival, Squibb, slithered across the track, narrowly avoiding the barriers on both sides of the tarmac. Gollop took advantage to pull into an uncontested

lead as Squibb fought to regain control of his 500 horsepower Ford Escort X-Trak. Squibb eventually recovered to take third place as Gollop, 42, claimed his third victory in the event.

Cantona's presence provides a spur as Manchester United enjoy derby supremacy

### Cup draw lands plum tie

Manchester United ..... 2  
Manchester City ..... 1

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

VS RUGBY and Marlow, the non-League sides who meet in a delayed FA Cup second-round tie on Wednesday, have been given an extra incentive to progress. The third-round draw yesterday has handed the winner a plum home tie against Tottenham Hotspur, eight-times winners of the competition.

The holders, Liverpool, must travel to the second division club, Bolton, to begin their defence of the cup when the third round is played in the first week of January.

The draw threw up some intriguing pairings. Arsenal, whose Premier League hopes have nosedived of late, must travel to either Yeovil or Hereford, both of whom are noted giant-killers. Wigan, from the second division, and Bury, from the third, meet in the second round to see who goes to Old Trafford to take on Manchester United.

The Premier League leaders, Norwich City, face Coventry, from the same division. Similarly, Chelsea visit Mid-derby, Nottingham Forest host Southampton and Wimbledon face Everton.

### DRAW

Nottingham Forest v Southampton  
Brentford v Grimsby  
Manchester United v Wigan or Bury  
Southend v Middlesbrough  
Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea  
Crewe v Macclesfield  
Wycombe or West Bromwich v West Ham  
Exeter or Swindon v Oxford  
Hampshire v Crystal Palace  
Newcastle United v Huddersfield  
Sheffield United v Burnley or Shrewsbury  
Aston Villa v Bristol Rovers  
Cambridge v Sheffield Wednesday  
Dartford v Stevenage  
Queens Park Rangers v Swindon  
Leeds v Charlton  
Newport County v Middlesbrough  
Watford v Wolves  
Yeovil or Hereford v Arsenal  
Luton v Bristol City  
Newport County v Macclesfield  
Oldham v Tranmere  
Newcastle v Port Vale  
Middlesbrough v Exeter  
Brentford v Reading  
Brighton or Woking v Portsmouth  
Blackburn v Cheltenham or Bournemouth  
Exeter or Plymouth or Peterborough  
Newport County v Middlesbrough  
Bolton v Liverpool  
VS Rugby or Marlow v Tottenham Hotspur  
Ties to be played on January 2, 3 or 4

## Hughes responds in style

almost wholly irrelevant, appearance as a substitute yesterday, coming on after the interval for Giggs, who damaged tendons in a foot. But though Giggs's absence would leave a convenient vacancy, Alex Ferguson would doubtless prefer to maintain the balance and the belief of his front line.

It has been restored just in time. A sequence of seven fixtures without a victory and with only four goals had left the impression that United were losing their way in the inaugural Premier League championship.

The win over their neighbours, which was more convincing than the score might indicate, was their third in a row. United have climbed back into fifth place, nine points off the pace, and their match next Saturday, again at Old Trafford, will be especially heavy in significance. The visitors are the leaders. Norwich City, United must close the gap if they are to complete

Cantona made a brief, and

	W	P	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich	18	12	3	34	31	39	57
Blackburn	18	8	7	25	21	31	41
A. Villa	18	8	7	3	25	15	31
Chelsea	18	9	4	5	25	20	31
Man Utd	18	9	4	5	25	19	31
Opp.	18	8	5	6	20	13	29
Arsenal	18	8	2	7	22	19	29
Wolverhampton	18	5	1	24	21	25	25
Liverpool	17	7	4	6	30	24	25
Man City	18	7	4	7	25	19	25
Coventry	18	6	5	6	23	24	25
Southampton	18	5	7	6	25	22	22
Tottenham	18	5	7	6	25	22	22
Leeds	18	5	6	7	29	22	21
Sheff Wed	18	5	6	7	29	22	21
Oldham	18	4	6	8	28	33	18
Sheff Utd	18	4	6	8	17	25	18
Wimbledon	17	4	6	7	21	21	15
C. Palace	18	3	6	9	22	22	15
Notm For	18	3	5	10	17	28	14

their own recovery and tuck themselves among the genuine contenders. Otherwise, the impetus they gained on a rain-swept afternoon will once more be lost.

It was built principally by the all-embracing contribution of Ince. As well as

dismissing the physical aggression of McMahon, he prompted the attack, assisted the defence and crowned a sparkling individual display by putting United ahead.

In the twentieth minute McMahon committed one of the fouls which littered the predictably fiery and disjointed occasion. He clattered into Robson, who chose to take the free kick himself. Hughes manoeuvred it into the crowded area, where Bruce rolled it deliberately back to Ince. With a crisp, left-foot drive, he scored his first goal since March.

Ince was no less responsible for smothering City's more limited ideas, and particularly when he ran some 60 yards to end a swift counter-attack led by White. United's domination of the first half was otherwise pierced only by Simpson's attempt, which was dragged wide of a post.

United's shape had to be altered with McClair moving out to Giggs's role on the right

flank. Although Cantona started with one measured cross for Hughes, the rest of his debut was negligible.

When Reid decided to bring himself on midway through the second half, the event was more balanced. The names of Phelan and McMahon, for yet another ill-timed assault, were added to that of Holden in the referee's notebook before United extended their lead in the 73rd minute.

Hill's headed clearance fell on to the chest of Hughes, who brushed aside a challenge before unleashing a characteristically spectacular volley.

City responded within 60 seconds. As White challenged Schmeichel for a cross, the ball fell kindly for Quinn, who prodded in only his second goal this season. It was no more than a mere consolation.

MANCHESTER UNITED: P Schmeichel; P Parker, D Irwin, S Bruce, L Sharpe, G Palster, B Robson, P. Ince, B. McClair, M. Reid, S. Quinn, S. Hughes, A. Ferguson. MANCHESTER CITY: A. Coton, B. Brightwell, T. Phelan, S. McMahon, K. Cole, A. Hill, D. Simpson, M. Sharpen (sub: G. Fleckton, F. Grayson, S. Reid), R. Holden. Referee: G. Ashby.

## Cantona stays cool under provocation

By DAVID MILLER

IT MUST have been a relief to Eric Cantona that he was required to play in only half the frenzied and occasionally ugly Manchester derby match that was sometimes more a misguided test of manhood than of English football, though there perhaps exists anyway a confusion between the two. Fortunately, the side wanting to play football won a contest of who dares, wins.

Perhaps Cantona's most telling contribution was his refusal, having been contemptuously kicked by McMahon, to accept the proffered handshake. McMahon, whose objective at times appears to be a pressing wish to get sent off, in fact managed only a booking for his profusion of fouls on a wet afternoon in which the referee was pursuing the game like a runaway bus.

Cantona had replaced Giggs at half-time, an exchange which, with respect to the elegant Frenchman, was not necessarily a gain to a spectacle already short on entertainment. Giggs had damaged ankle tendons when

making a shot, and this left the three contenders in an election for two positions to parade their credentials side by side during the second half.

Hughes was the one to profit, scoring a characteristic goal, as stylish as Ince's in the first half, to put United two up with just over a quarter of an hour to go.

Statistically, on past performances, this means that Hughes, with eight league goals and a tendency to score spectacularly rather than regularly, may have further expended his ration for the season. Alex Ferguson said afterwards, more optimistically, that maybe Hughes was heading for his best season.

The place of McClair, who has scored only three times and yesterday moved into the space on the right flank vacated by Giggs, must be the more vulnerable.

However, neither Hughes nor Cantona is particularly noted for a capacity to blend with others, so an easy solution for Ferguson, to what he regards as a welcome problem, is

unlikely to present itself within the space of a few matches. There is a tendency, as Malcolm Allison learned to his cost when signing Rodney Marsh in mid-season, that an individualistic player can provide more problems than solutions. What Cantona will do is to sharpen the application of everyone else.

Apart from being a target of McMahon's intimidation — a privilege shared with Robson and, in particular, Ince — Cantona's involvement consisted of three crosses from the right, nicely struck, in the space of his first five minutes on the pitch. From the last of these Hughes sent a bustling header flying wide of the left post.

In an attempt to turn the match City's way when only one down, Peter Reid sent himself into the fray in place of Simpson, a busy left-sided player who had all but equalised just on half-time with a sharp cross shot, from Quinn's square pass, that grazed the far post.

The introduction of that distin-

guished pair of short, bent, pale and ageing legs brought a little more coherence to City, even if McMahon did soon receive the booking that had been a long time coming, for yet another demolition job on Ince. In the past month or two Ince has been acquiring a reliability that can be invaluable to both United and England.

Reid's explanation afterwards, at a brief press conference, about the timing of his entrance was so sarcastically dismissive as to make the conference valueless. But within a minute of Hughes's goal, Quinn had reduced the margin and United were left with an anxious closing stage, attempting to keep out a City side now playing far more in keeping with their position in the table.

Bruce, prostrate on the pitch for several minutes, got up to continue valiantly with United under the whip and it was to Hughes's relief, above all, when Schmeichel somehow kept out shots by Hill and White and the last whistle finally arrived.

### World Cup bid claims

Karachi: Pakistan cricket officials claimed yesterday that the joint bid of Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka to host the 1995 World Cup was larger financially than England's. Pakistan's offer is believed to match the £5 million of England but had been thought to be worth marginally less. The International Cricket Council will decide the venue on February 2. (AP) Security worries, page 21

**THE SINGLETON**  
**MALT WHISKY**  
**HAS INTOXICATED**  
**THE JUDGES.**

Malt whisky juries have long been falling over themselves to praise The Singleton. In the last six years it has won no fewer than eight major international awards.

What makes this richer, fuller single malt so special? Could it be the damp, misty climate of Auchroisk?

Or the remarkably pure spring waters of Dornie's Well? Or the unique maturing process in Spanish sherry casks?

Whatever it is, there can be no finer pastime than sitting down with a glass and deciding for yourself.

**THE SINGLETON**  
OF  
**AUCHROISK**









# Cheltenham draws wealth of talent for Bula Hurdle

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

**GRANVILLE** Again and his full brother, Morley Street, are set to meet again in the Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham on Saturday.

To add spice, Oh So Risky, the 1991 Triumph Hurdle winner, will be declared by David Elsworth, who has been outspoken in his belief that Granville Again is not Champion Hurdle material.

Michael Stoute also confirmed that Kribensis, the 1990 winner of the hurdling crown, will make his seasonal debut in the race, making it the best contest for two-mile hurdlers this season.

Pipe had originally selected the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton as Granville Again's next target but yesterday he disclosed the Bula plan. "He's been entered. I've got to speak to the owner, Eric Scarth, but he's a probable runner."

At Cheltenham's Sunday meeting three weeks ago, Morley Street gave his younger brother 6lb in the Coral-Eclipse Hurdle and, in a sprint finish, prevailed by a length

with Oh So Risky a promising two lengths third.

The four-horse field went no pace for much of the race so the form may be unreliable, and Morley Street has since blotted his copybook by downing tools after the last at Ascot.

After a slow start to the campaign by its usual standards, the Pipe yard is now in full swing, and the victories of Valfin in the William Hill Hurdle at Sandown and Run For Free in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow enabled the champion trainer to oust David Nicholson from first place in the current table.

Run For Free's all-the-way victory in Chepstow's feature race was something of a surprise as Minnehoma had been the Pipe boy of the day, having beaten his stablemate ten and a half lengths in the Sun Alliance Chase in March.

"The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.

However, the impressive victories of Wonder Man and Waterloo Boy at Sandown on Saturday served only to confirm Pipe will not be able to relax for a moment if he is to win his fifth successive title.

"Wonder Man is one of the most intelligent horses I have ever trained," Nicholson said after victory in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase. "I am looking forward to the Arkle."

Waterloo Boy, placed in three runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, proved once more he is one of the bravest chasers in training, carrying 12 stone to a battling victory against Uncle Ernie and Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The change in mood within Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

## McCreery finds gold

Peter McCreery recorded his biggest win when Gold Options won the Ir20,000 Durkan Brothers Punchestown Chase yesterday (Our Irish Correspondent writes).

Five of the nine runners, Garamycin, General Idea, Blitzkreig, Gold Options and Cahervillahow, the 5-2 favourite, were in a line across the track jumping the second last after Cahervillahow had set a slow early gallop.

Mark Dwyer sent Gold Op-

tions into the lead and then ran on as General Idea finished well to be beaten a head. Cahervillahow was fourth.

Dwyer completed a double when landing a gamble on Thawney Flame in the London Handicap Hurdle.

At Fairyhouse on Saturday, Tiamanen Square was a five-length winner on his first attempt over hurdles. He will be aimed for the Trafalgar House Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham in March.

The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.

However, the impressive victories of Wonder Man and Waterloo Boy at Sandown on Saturday served only to confirm Pipe will not be able to relax for a moment if he is to win his fifth successive title.

"Wonder Man is one of the most intelligent horses I have ever trained," Nicholson said after victory in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase. "I am looking forward to the Arkle."

Waterloo Boy, placed in three runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, proved once more he is one of the bravest chasers in training, carrying 12 stone to a battling victory against Uncle Ernie and Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The change in mood within Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.

However, the impressive victories of Wonder Man and Waterloo Boy at Sandown on Saturday served only to confirm Pipe will not be able to relax for a moment if he is to win his fifth successive title.

"Wonder Man is one of the most intelligent horses I have ever trained," Nicholson said after victory in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase. "I am looking forward to the Arkle."

Waterloo Boy, placed in three runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, proved once more he is one of the bravest chasers in training, carrying 12 stone to a battling victory against Uncle Ernie and Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The change in mood within Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.

However, the impressive victories of Wonder Man and Waterloo Boy at Sandown on Saturday served only to confirm Pipe will not be able to relax for a moment if he is to win his fifth successive title.

"Wonder Man is one of the most intelligent horses I have ever trained," Nicholson said after victory in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase. "I am looking forward to the Arkle."

Waterloo Boy, placed in three runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, proved once more he is one of the bravest chasers in training, carrying 12 stone to a battling victory against Uncle Ernie and Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The change in mood within Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.

However, the impressive victories of Wonder Man and Waterloo Boy at Sandown on Saturday served only to confirm Pipe will not be able to relax for a moment if he is to win his fifth successive title.

"Wonder Man is one of the most intelligent horses I have ever trained," Nicholson said after victory in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase. "I am looking forward to the Arkle."

Waterloo Boy, placed in three runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, proved once more he is one of the bravest chasers in training, carrying 12 stone to a battling victory against Uncle Ernie and Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The change in mood within Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.

However, the impressive victories of Wonder Man and Waterloo Boy at Sandown on Saturday served only to confirm Pipe will not be able to relax for a moment if he is to win his fifth successive title.

"Wonder Man is one of the most intelligent horses I have ever trained," Nicholson said after victory in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase. "I am looking forward to the Arkle."

Waterloo Boy, placed in three runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, proved once more he is one of the bravest chasers in training, carrying 12 stone to a battling victory against Uncle Ernie and Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The change in mood within Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.

However, the impressive victories of Wonder Man and Waterloo Boy at Sandown on Saturday served only to confirm Pipe will not be able to relax for a moment if he is to win his fifth successive title.

"Wonder Man is one of the most intelligent horses I have ever trained," Nicholson said after victory in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase. "I am looking forward to the Arkle."

Waterloo Boy, placed in three runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, proved once more he is one of the bravest chasers in training, carrying 12 stone to a battling victory against Uncle Ernie and Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The change in mood within Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.

However, the impressive victories of Wonder Man and Waterloo Boy at Sandown on Saturday served only to confirm Pipe will not be able to relax for a moment if he is to win his fifth successive title.

"Wonder Man is one of the most intelligent horses I have ever trained," Nicholson said after victory in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase. "I am looking forward to the Arkle."

Waterloo Boy, placed in three runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, proved once more he is one of the bravest chasers in training, carrying 12 stone to a battling victory against Uncle Ernie and Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The change in mood within Whitehall follows two crucial meetings last week.

The form has been turned round with Run For Free but that came at the end of the season. Minnehoma ran and jumped well but it was his first

outing. There is more improvement in him."

"Run For Free had had a run, which had to be in his favour. Minnehoma is always a bit rusty to begin with."

Having beaten the subsequent Hennessy runner-up, Jodami, at Haydock, Run For Free's form is there for all to see and he is now 7-2 favourite with the sponsors for the Coral Welsh National.

Celtic Chief, twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, returns at Market Rasen tomorrow. Formerly with Merry Rumm and John McComochie, the nine-year-old has been sidelined with leg problems and has raced only twice in the past three seasons.

The Celtic Cone gelding is with Pipe. "He has schooled very well but he will probably be a bit rusty," the trainer said.

Nicholson knows his chances of winning the trainers' title rest largely on how Pipe fares this season, given the numerical strength of the champion trainer.



# Wycombe show their league potential

Wycombe Wanderers .... 2  
West Bromwich Albion .... 2

By ANDREW LONGMORE

TWO goals in the last 30 minutes earned Wycombe Wanderers a place in the draw for the third round of the FA Cup and a few more pounds to invest in their presumed future in the Football League.

In the short term, they can contemplate a lucrative replay at The Hawthorns which, for long periods yesterday, looked well beyond their grasp. In the longer term, they can view the prospect of a home game against West Ham United in the third round and life in the third division with confidence, enhanced after their first real test of league opposition.

Wycombe will not meet many sides with the neat skills of West Bromwich Albion where they are heading, and yet, despite being given a lesson in the art of teamwork and keeping possession, the runaway leaders of the GM Vauxhall Conference offered their own gentle reminder of the nature of the FA Cup. Pride and passion can mean as much as prettiness.

With a defeat by Woking in the Cup all too close to memory, Albion cannot have viewed their visit to the high flyers of Adams Park with anything other than trepidation. Wycombe are deadly at home, having scored an average of three goals a game in each of their nine home matches.

As early as the second minute, Scott turned Strodder on the left touchline, sped for the byline and pulled back a perfect cross which Casey headed wide. It should have been the dream start for the non-League side; instead, it proved to be a nightmare for Casey, who dislocated his shoulder in the collision with

Wycombe Wanderers: P Hyde, J Coates, M Crossley, S Hutchinson, G Green, D Thompson, D Carroll, L Case, S Scott, D Green, S Stapleton, P Scott, S Guy. Subs: D Howell, D Bradley (sub P Williams), P Rovin, G Strodder, S Garner, J Hamilton, P Taylor, B McNally, G Rooson (sub J Donovan). Replacements: P Cooper

MARC ASPLAND



Timely intervention: Scott's advance for Wycombe is thwarted by Strodder at Adams Park yesterday

## Randall revives Bath's dream

Bath City ..... 2  
Northampton Town ..... 2

By ALAN LEE

THE ingredients were perfect for the romantic result — the bottom team in the Football League playing away on a treacherous part-timers' pitch. It could and should have happened but Bath City, despite dominating the game yesterday, twice had to come from behind even to earn a second-round replay tomorrow.

Northampton looked swamped until a bizarre and dubious goal in the 47th minute, when a cross from Steve Brown was ruled to have crossed the line before or after the Bath goalkeeper, Dave Mogg, palmed it to the mud. "I think the linesman made a mistake," Mogg said. "No, I know he made a mistake."

After another goal each, nine minutes remained when gross injustice was avoided in

apart fashion. Randall, brought on as a substitute only five minutes earlier, became the second player in the match to score with an intended cross. On a skating rink of a pitch, passed fit only an hour before kick-off, it was that sort of contest, often shapeless but never without the promise of the perverse which makes the FA Cup so compulsive.

For the majority of Bath's sporting public, cup dreams died a week ago when the rugby club met in Waterloo. The city mourned an indignity: the round-ball equivalent yesterday created only a ripple by comparison. True, the crowd of 3,626 was six times Bath's average gate, but still barely half the rugby club's regular attendance. Football is an afterthought here, and Twerton Park, divorced from the Georgian splendour at the Bristol end of town, smacks of a sport treated with more indulgence than affection.

This, however, was Bath's biggest day in years and inside

## Wye revives Woking's hopes

ONCE acquired, a taste for FA Cup giantkilling is difficult to lose. Woking, breathtaking 4-2 winners at West Bromwich Albion two years ago, thrashed their hosts following a 1-1 draw at Brighton on Saturday when Shane Wye drove in an equaliser in a 1-1 draw (Walter Gunnie writes).

Life may be hard for Woking as they adapt to the GM Vauxhall Conference with a largely rebuilt side, but their manager, Geoff Chapple, must be delighted with an investment in one old hand. Wye had helped Wanganui win a place in the New Zealand national league during the summer and fancied a month trekking.

Geoff kept ringing to say he wanted me back for the FA Cup and I'm glad I listened to him," Wye said. Chapple paid the £1,000 to fly home Shane and his brother, Lloyd.

Last season, Woking were knocked out in a third-round replay at Edgar Street by Hereford United after being

held to a home goalless draw. On Saturday, Hereford pulled off the first half of what may be a repeat when thwarting Yeovil Town's attempt to claim League victim No. 16 in front of a record crowd of 8,000 at Huish Park.

The Cheltenham Town manager, Lindsay Parsons, felt his youngsters proved their worth at Whaddon Road with Chister Warren, 18, hitting his first senior goal to give the Beaver Hornets League side a 1-1 draw against Bournemouth. Parsons was still fulminating yesterday at the solemn claim an hour before kick-off by his friend and long-time colleague at Bristol Rovers, Tony Pulus, that Peter Shearer would not be playing.

The forward Cheltenham sold to Bournemouth three years ago for £18,000 duly appeared and scored the second division side's first-half goal. Parsons may have the last laugh, however. A serious knee injury ruined a projected £500,000 move to Wimbledon, but now Shearer is fit again. Parsons says "he will be a Premier League player in a month". If that happens, Cheltenham will gain a third of any transfer fee.

Marine of the HFL Loans League, made light work of running up a 3-0 lead on a heavy pitch against Stafford Rangers. Eddie Murray improved a week in which he had been made redundant by a local garage by driving in two of the goals. Gaultrey beat the other before goals by Berry (penalty) and Palgrave left Marine hanging on at 3-2.

Southport, of the HFL Loans League, held out for an hour at Hartlepool United yesterday, then Saville followed up a goal by Peverall with a hat-trick that brought Hartlepool a 4-0 win.

Everyone agreed it was great to be going home but where, exactly, was the Valley (Louise Taylor writes)? The cluster of teenage Charlton Athletic supporters congregated at London Bridge station on Saturday debated whether Charlton station was really the most convenient stop for the first division club, back at their home after seven years.

They had to wait only seven minutes for the goal that consigned Portsmouth to a 1-0 defeat. It was dispatched into the net by Colin Walsh at the end of a swift, well-worked move which had the Charlton players' old-fashioned, baggy shorts — worn specially for the occasion — billowing in the breeze as they swept forward.

Walsh's fifth league goal

set the minds of everybody

connected with Charlton at rest by providing the team with only their second win in 12 first division fixtures.

## Walsh strike ensures a happy homecoming

GARY BLISSON, the Brentford striker, playing his first game since being cleared of a charge of grievous bodily harm against Neil Uzzell, of Torquay United, last week scored his seventeenth goal of the season as Brentford won 3-1 at Birmingham City.

Malcolm Allison, the caretaker manager of Bristol Rovers, celebrated a second successive victory, Rovers beating fellow strugglers, Luton Town, 2-0. Ian Atkins, in charge of Cambridge United for the first time, presided over a 1-1 home draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers, for whom Steve Bull was on target.

Newcastle United remain runaway leaders thanks to a 2-0 win at Notts County, who had Chris Short sent off. Neil Warnock, the County manager, is in a precarious position, his side having won only one of their past 14 games.

## WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

### FA Cup

#### First round replay

SALISBURY (1) 2 MARLOW (0) 2  
Gates 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813,

## RUGBY LEAGUE

# St Helens pull clear in dominant second half

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS..... 9  
St Helens ..... 25

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ST HELENS yesterday confirmed the divide between the first and second divisions as a wide one. A wholly dominant performance after the interval conferred respectability on the scoreline and smoothed their passage into the Regal Trophy third round draw today.

Having fought tooth and claw to turn round only 9-8 in arrears, Featherstone Rovers could make no impression up the increasingly slippery slope as icy rain and sleet lashed the small ground at Post Office Road.

Three tries, one by Lyon, the full back, who also landed three of his four goals in the teeth of the gale, ended Featherstone's tireless resistance after a supreme tackling effort had left the visitors for the best part of an hour.

They were systematically worn down in the end, having to cope with the unsightly drive of Ward and Joynt, highly impressive at loose forward, with Cooper, whose quick-fire distribution left Featherstone stretched and stranded in the closing minutes, switching to scrum half.

For the second division leaders, Pearson, at stand-off half, enjoyed a fine kicking game. Only the outstretched arms of Connolly, on two occasions, prevented follow-up scores, although a try by Smales in the

final minute of the first half was the product of some wonderfully punishing forward play.

Having been narrowly beaten on a league visit last season, St Helens were visibly relieved to open up some daylight after Sullivan and Mann had both lost the ball over the Featherstone line early on. McCracken surged through several tackles for a score in the 23rd minute from Coopers quick scrum feed and Lyon's diagonal run to the left corner.

After their one try and two goals by Pearson in the first quarter, Featherstone, and the admirable Tuuta, tackled themselves to a standstill. The score that broke their back was, nonetheless, a highly dubious one. Sullivan appeared to be a substantial way offside when he caught an attempted dropped goal by O'Donnell and dropped down in the in-goal area.

Featherstone could have no complaint with the two tries in the last ten minutes. Lyon found space on the right flank for a score and Joynt hacked through and pounced for a richly deserved touchdown.

SCORERS: Featherstone: Try: Smiles, 21; Ward, 23; Joynt, 26; McCracken, Sullivan, Lyon, Joynt, Goller, Lyon (4). Dropped goal: O'Donnell.

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS: Cabb, 1; Butt, Manning (sub: M. Wilson), P. Neale, G. Smales, 2; G. Smales (sub: G. Smales), R. Gunn, G. Price (sub: G. Price), I. Smiles, B. Tuuta.

ST HELENS: D. Lyon, L. Quirk, G. Connolly, J. Ward, R. Joynt, R. Tuuta, S. Cooper, K. Ward, R. O'Donnell, G. Mann, J. Hamson, G. Nicl, C. Joynt.

Referee: P. Vokes.

## Crusaders let down by poor handling

LEIGH dashed London Crusaders' hopes of another giant-killing effort by beating them 16-6 and securing a place in the Regal Trophy quarter-final yesterday. Crusaders, who defeated Castleford 30-0 in the first round, were never in front and were let down by bad handling in atrocious conditions.

Tony Kay scored four tries as Workington Town beat Hunslet 34-12 to go through. A floodlight failure stopped the game between Hull KR and Wigan with 90 seconds left — but it was decided to allow the 18-0 scoreline in Wigan's favour to stand. Castleford cruised through

54-0 at Carlisle's expense and Hull beat Halifax 23-14.

Bradford Northern and Warrington will replay at Olds on December 16 after an extraordinary fightback by Bradford on Saturday after they trailed 12-2 with 15 minutes remaining. Tries by Anderson and Shelford brought the visitors back, but Hobbs just failed to lift a second conversion out of the mud at Wilderspool.

Doncaster, of the third division, have been issued with a winding-up order by the Inland Revenue, but say they are in a position to meet a tax bill exceeding £100,000 by the December 16 deadline.



Party-pooper: Fogdell threads his way through a gate during his winning slalom run at the World Cup event in Val d'Isère yesterday

## Fogdell speeds home to spoil the party

FROM DAVID POWELL IN VAL D'ISÈRE

THE tables were set and the house red was uncorked, but at lunchtime yesterday nobody was dining at Les Chardons hotel-restaurant: Patrice Bianchi had seen to that.

Bianchi's first run in the World Cup slalom, on his home town course, did nothing for business at his parents' establishment a quarter of a mile away. The second, and decisive, run was at 1pm and everybody left to see if Bianchi could sustain his unexpected lead.

"We will be busy later if Patrice wins," Eliana Mathis, a waitress with no customers,

"I thought I might get

seventh or eighth, but I did not dare think I could win," Fogdell said. "I am so happy, I just can't believe it." Then, remembering whose town he was in, he showed manners. "I am so sad for Patrice," he said. "But more happy for himself, than sorry for his opponent."

In World Cup slalom, the fastest 15 from the opening run go first on the second run. The slowest of the 15 begins, which meant that Fogdell, 22, was fourth to go.

He took 40.25sec, but because the second run had three gates fewer than the first, it was not obvious immediate

how quick he was. Seven skiers failed to match Fogdell's speed and then it was the turn of Alberto Tomba, the World Cup slalom champion.

Tomba, surely, would take the lead, but the brilliance of the Swede's run grew apparent when the Italian recorded 47.23sec.

"Where is the man in black?" Tomba bellowed at the bottom. He was referring to Stuart Fitzsimmons, who holds a record four British overall titles, and who had skied down alongside Tomba, shooting film. Tomba blamed Fitzsimmons for distracting

him and a World Cup official said last night that his accreditation would be withdrawn from future events.

Tomba's two-run time of 1min 35.70sec put him seventh. Fogdell led on 1min 34.76sec. A punch of the air signalled Fogdell's realisation that he was now only one place away from the podium.

Next down was Armin Bittner, of Germany, more than a second slower on the second run and ultimately fourth. Now Fogdell punched with both arms. Then Hubert Strolz, of Austria, second fastest in the morning, was also slower and Fogdell was punching and shouting. Only Bianchi to come. Could it be?

At halfway, Bianchi had

had a second advantage. But the thought of an accident through the last few gates never entered his head. "You have to ski close to the gates," he said. "There is no room for caution in the World Cup."

SLALOM: Fogdell (Swe) 1min 34.76sec; 2, I. Strolz (Aust) 1min 35.03sec; 3, H. Strolz (Aust) 1min 35.14sec; 4, A. Tomba (Ital) 1min 35.70sec; 5, P. Gennari (Ital) 1min 36.28sec; 6, S. Fitzsimmons (GBR) 1min 36.30sec; 7, S. Tomba (Ital) 1min 36.31sec; 8, C. Tomba (Ital) 1min 36.32sec; 9, G. Fogdell (Swe) 1min 36.33sec.

SUPERGIANT SLALOM: 1, J. E. Thomson (GBR) 1min 35.13sec; 2, A. Tomba (Ital) 1min 35.14sec; 3, A. Tomba (Ital) 1min 35.15sec; 4, A. Tomba (Ital) 1min 35.16sec; 5, P. Ordel (Aust) 1min 35.17sec; 6, J. P. Polak (Neth) 1min 35.18sec; 7, A. S. Sjöström (Swe) 1min 35.19sec; 8, H. Strolz (Aust) 1min 35.20sec; 9, H. Strolz (Aust) 1min 35.21sec; 10, P. Wiberg (Swe) 1min 35.22sec; 11, Overall: 1, A. Tomba (Ital) 1min 35.23sec; 2, H. Strolz (Aust) 1min 35.24sec; 3, G. Fogdell (Swe) 1min 35.25sec; 4, C. Tomba (Ital) 1min 35.26sec; 5, S. Fitzsimmons (GBR) 1min 35.27sec; 6, A. Strolz (Aust) 1min 35.28sec; 7, H. Strolz (Aust) 1min 35.29sec; 8, G. Fogdell (Swe) 1min 35.30sec; 9, A. Tomba (Ital) 1min 35.31sec; 10, C. Tomba (Ital) 1min 35.32sec.

SLALOM CUP POSITIONS: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.

SLALOM CUP: Overall: 1, K. Strolz; 2, Tomba; 3, C. Tomba; 4, H. Strolz; 5, G. Fogdell; 6, A. Tomba; 7, H. Strolz; 8, P. Wiberg; 9, H. Strolz; 10, C. Tomba.



## CONCERTS page 28

At the Festival Hall  
violinist Viktoria Mullova  
and the LPO played  
scintillating Bartók

# ARTS



An Oscar winner in *Misery*: "the tale of a maniacal fan confronting the writer she worships is still associated with Kathy Bates's star-making screen portrayal"

## Lights, camera, action, curtain

As another stage version of a successful film opens in London, Matt Wolf looks at two-way traffic between theatre and cinema

For years, films have fed on the theatre, finding Oscars in such malleable stage fare as *West Side Story*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Amadeus* and *Driving Miss Daisy*. Increasingly, however, inspiration seems to be flowing the other way. The musical theatre, desperate for product, has seized upon hit films. The long-awaited *Sunset Boulevard*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical of Billy Wilder's classic 1950 film, has announced a June opening on the West End. Broadway is anticipating both Thursday's debut of *My Favourite Year*, a musical based on the 1982 Peter O'Toole film, and the March opening of *The Goodbye Girl*, Neil Simon and Marvin Hamlisch's stage musical version of Simon's 1977 movie.

In their own category are productions based not on films, but on novels that inspired hit films. *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, already ensconced at the Shafesbury Theatre, or the forthcoming *Misery*. In a sense, though, the distinction is academic. While these shows' creators may swear fidelity to their source novels, and not to the films they engendered, those films remain the spectre hovering over the project which producers and audiences alike must contend with.

Chances are that more theatregoers' night at *Spider Woman* remember William Hurt's droll 1985 film performance as Molina

**The novel may be the launching-pad, but the film casts the long, enveloping shadow'**

than have ever laid eyes on Mamee Pug's 1976 novel. Similarly, *Misery* may have been a best-seller of typically epic Stephen King proportions, but the tale of a maniacal fan confronting the writer she worships is still closely associated with Kathy Bates's star-making screen portrayal two years ago. The fact that Hurt and Bates both won leading actor Oscars in their respective years makes it doubly daunting for any stage performer following on afterwards. The novel may be the launching-pad, but it's the film that casts the long, enveloping shadow.

Sharon Gless, the actress inheriting Bates's role as the murderously obsessive Annie Wilkes, acknowledges the irony in a television-trained performer stepping into a part played on screen by a thoroughly New York theatre actress. "I'm not Kathy, and I couldn't pretend to be," says Gless, 49, whose only stage experience was a Massachusetts engagement in *Watch On the Rhine*. "Our version takes the movie that much further: it's not a repeat."

Simon Moore, the play's 34-year-old writer/director, expands this point: "For me, precisely what I

didn't want to do is: 'Here's the stage version of the film.' There's massive uncharted territory which the film decided not to go into." In the movie, James Caan's Paul Sheldon "is a conventional action hero who's suddenly disabled," says Moore, whereas Bill Peterson in the play emphasises King's depiction of "a very vain novelist who thinks he's marvellous, and in

powerful intermediary? *Nine*, director-choreographer Tommy Tune's 1982 musical adaptation of Federico Fellini's groundbreaking *8½*, rounded up the original title's fraction even as it created a show that had absolutely its own identity, much the same could be said of Tune's more recent *Grand Hotel*. Other projects haven't been so lucky: *Singin' In The Rain*, a no less beloved MGM film, became a tacky West End vehicle for Tommy Steele, and a stage musical of the 1981 Dudley Moore/John Gielgud hit *Arthur* has floundered in initial American productions. The notorious debacle of *Carrie*, the only other Stephen King stage adaptation to date, has passed into theatre legend.

Even *Spider Woman*, its various accolades notwithstanding, suffers in comparison. Whereas both the novel and Hector Babenco's film had an immediately apparent *raison d'être*, the musical schizophractically marries a Vegas-style revue to a chorus line of celluloid. Librettist Terrence McNally may claim the musical is "so unlike the movie you never think of it," but the title ensures the contrary. Nevertheless, a well-known title

can be useful, since it offers a built-in marketing lure few other shows can draw on. How many who saw *Aspects of Love*, Lloyd Webber's last musical, even knew of the 1955 source novel by David Garnett, a minor Bloomsbury writer?

With *Sunset Boulevard*, Lloyd Webber's success — at least commercially — is as sure a bet as the theatre has. Added to that audience curiosities about the next British blockbuster, whatever it may be, will be a public eager to see how Billy Wilder's hard, brilliant movie meshes with Lloyd Webber's traditionally lush theatrics. The questions remaining are aesthetic, not financial: how do you adapt for the stage — a medium not obviously suited for close-ups — a film whose most celebrated line begins, "I'm ready for my close-up..."?

As for *Misery*, co-producer Andrew Welch makes clear that the association with the film is more boon than bane: "In a recession, of course, it may be that people go to see things they know and like." And if the movie gives audiences a prod, so much the better. The task, says Welch, is to "enhance the experience [of the film]. What we're going to have on stage is something that will be very different — Simon Moore's vision of the book as a play."

• *Misery* preview at the Criterion (071-839 4458) from Thursday and opens on December 17

## ROCK page 29

Christine McVie: her polished tunes are central to the appeal of Fleetwood Mac

## DANCE

## Simply not good enough on stage

John Percival thinks the Royal Ballet's decision to present a stage version of a favourite children's film reflects badly on everybody but the dancers

When the proposal of making a ballet out of Beatrix Potter's children's books was put to Frederick Ashton, he declined on the grounds that people would say "the old boy has gone gaga". A dance film, he agreed, was quite another matter and he was right: in the cinema, on television and on video *Tales of Beatrix Potter* has given delight to children for 21 years.

Now along comes Anthony Dowell and decides to transfer it to the stage, and reluctantly one is compelled to wonder whether it is he who has lost some of his marbles. Ashton, a real pro, knew that screen choreography needed different, simpler patterns than the stage, making up its interest through changing camera angles, close-ups, long shots and trick effects. Without these, much of *Beatrix Potter* is boring. There are one or two attractive dances tucked away in it, most notably the pretty duet for two porters, Pig-wig and Pigling Bland, and a bouncy solo for a frog, Jeremy Fisher. But most of it, restricted by Christine Edzard's elaborate costumes, is just skipping about, and the structure is only a set of inconsequential episodes.

Among the dancers, Iain Webb

and the hardest job, replacing Ashton as Mrs Tiggy-winkle the hedgehog, and he acquires himself best, thanks to a sense of style and a gentle manner. Belinda Hadley's pig and William Trevitt's frog were the best of the rest.

There was much chortling and chuckling at Friday's premiere, and I guess that the production may appeal to people who neither know nor care anything about ballet. But it is not something worth paying Covent Garden prices for: buy the video instead and see a better version of the ballet, danced by its outstanding original cast.

Those who sit through it will, however, have the consolation of seeing one of Ashton's real ballets *The Dream*, given as the first part of the evening. This has worthwhile music (Mendelssohn, also arranged by Lanchbery, who conducts it in lively manner); a story by Shakespeare and all expressed in imaginative dances. Unfortunately it suffers from ill-conceived programme building, like serving a meal of two sweet courses.



"Naïve, jolly little dances": a scene from the Royal Ballet's production of Sir Frederick Ashton's *Tales of Beatrix Potter*

### BRADFORD & BINGLEY (DOUGLAS) LTD NEW RATES OF INTEREST FROM 8TH DECEMBER 1992.

Accounts no longer available to new depositors

Scheme	Gross % p.a.
MAXIMISER Independent Account £5,000 - £24,999	6.25
£25,000 plus	6.75
MAXIMISER Independent Income £5,000 - £24,999	6.00
£25,000 plus	6.45
MAXIMISER Independent Access	5.25
MAXIMISER Independent Accumulator	7.25
MAXIMISER Independent Bond II Re-Issue £5,000 - £24,999	7.25
£25,000 plus	7.60
MAXIMISER Independent Bond (Issue III) £5,000 - £24,999	7.25
£5,000 - £24,999 (Income)	6.90
£25,000 plus	7.60
£25,000 plus (Income)	7.23
Matured Bonds	5.25

**BRADFORD & BINGLEY  
(DOUGLAS) LIMITED**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: FIRST FLOOR, 30 RIDGEWAY STREET, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.  
TELEPHONE: 0624 662283. FAX: 0624 661962.

Interest rates are variable. Exclusively for U.K. residents. Includes 1% gross p.a. bonus. Registered with the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission for Banking Business. Deposits made with offices of Bradford & Bingley (Douglas) Ltd in the Isle of Man are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the Banking Act 1987, in the UK.

## Will more of Scotland's 'family silver' be sold?

### ARTS BRIEFING

EDINBURGH University is under fire for attempting to sell three of its finest art treasures: a landscape by Jacob van Ruisdael, and sculptures by Adrian de Vries and Giambologna. If the university succeeds in its aim, the £2 million that it raised earlier this year from the controversial sale of its vortices of bird illustrations by Audubon and Gould will be greatly exceeded. Estimates for the painting and the two sculptures range from £2 million to £5 million each.

Unfortunately for the university, its right to sell these treasures is disputed. When James Erskine of Torrie bequeathed them in 1824, as part of a larger collection, he stipulated that his gift was "for the purpose of laying a foundation for a gallery for the encouragement of fine arts". The fight is now on to keep the treasures in Scotland, although the National Galleries of Scotland, with an annual purchase grant of £1.67 million, has not a hope of acquiring the great Ruisdael landscape which is still one of its prize exhibits.

• ONE of the great ballet partnerships of the post-war years will get what will almost certainly be a

regrettably all-too-short run will be at the Vaudeville (071-836 9987) on Saturday.

### English National Opera

#### Princess Ida

Gilbert and Sullivan  
New Production  
December 10 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 30  
January 2 (2.30pm & 7.30pm) | 6 | 7 | 9  
(2.30pm & 7.30pm) | 11 | 14 | 21 at 7.30pm

This new production is supported by a donation from Christine and Irvine Lainglaw

#### Hansel and Gretel

Humperdinck  
December 9 | 11 | 17 | 21 | 23  
(3.00pm & 7.30pm) at 7.30pm

This revival is supported by an anonymous donor

#### The Adventures of Mr Brouček

Janáček  
New Production  
December 16 | 19 | 22 | 31 (6.00pm)  
January 5 | 8 | 12 | 15 | 20 | 23 at 7.30pm

This new production is supported by THE AUDIENCE



Box Office  
071 836 3161  
Credit Cards  
071 240 5258  
London Coliseum  
St Martin's Lane  
London WC2





071-481 1066

## EDUCATION

## POSTS

GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL  
APPOINTMENT  
OF HEAD

The Governors of Giggleswick School invite applications for the position of Head which falls vacant in September 1993 when the present Head, Mr. Peter Hobson, takes up his appointment as Headmaster of Charterhouse. The closing date for applications is Thursday 14th January 1993.

For further details, please contact The Clerk to the Governors, Giggleswick School, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 0DE.

## HEADMASTER

GADGIL PUBLIC SCHOOL  
NEW DELHI, INDIA

(opening April 1993)

The Gadgil Foundation wishes to appoint a Head from an Indian public school to take charge of its new public school to be situated on a six acre site in the south of New Delhi. It will be a co-educational day school catering for children from the ages 4 to 18, providing a broad curriculum leading to entry to University. In order to achieve its objective of becoming one of India's leading public schools, the proposed buildings will have the benefit of modern, purpose built laboratories, computer rooms, a library and a sports complex with proven backgrounds. Applicants, preferably aged between 35 and 45 years, must have relevant experience in running similar public schools or other educational institutions in the Indian sub-continent. It is envisaged that the successful candidate will contribute to the development of the growth of the school from its opening in April 1994 with about 300 students, building up to a full strength of 1500 pupils by 1996/7. He will be expected to set the standards and create an institution in keeping with the highest educational traditions. An attractive remuneration and benefits package, denominated in Indian Rupees, will be provided to the right candidate.

It is expected that initial interviews will be carried out in London as soon as is practicable and interested candidates should therefore send their C.V.s and other relevant information to Box No 0248, no later than 24 December 1992. Please reply to Box No 0248, Box No Dept. Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9EE.

HEAD  
DEVONSHIRE HOUSE  
THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Applications are invited for the position as Head of Devonshire House Junior School, Hampstead, London NW3.

The Junior School is part of Devonshire House Preparatory School, Hampstead which is a co-educational day preparatory school for children from three to thirteen years of age. The Junior School is for children from three to seven years of age, and the Headship of this section of the School will be a new appointment.

Candidates should have the appropriate qualifications and extensive relevant experience. They should demonstrate a commitment to cherish and care for the children for whom they will be responsible. Candidates must also show a dedication to academic excellence and the will to help each child reach his or her full potential.

Applications should be made in writing with a curriculum vitae to the Principal's Secretary, 2 Arkwright Road, Hampstead, London NW3 6AD.

071-481 9994

Felsted School  
HEAD

The Governors of Felsted School invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant in September 1993 on the appointment of Mr E J H Gould as Master of Marlborough College.

The School has 560 pupils and consists of a Senior School with its own Preparatory School which includes a Pre-Preparatory Department. The School admits boarding and day pupils and the Senior School is predominantly boarding. Since 1978 Felsted has accepted girls into the Sixth Form and the School is now moving towards full co-education. The present Headmaster is a member of HMC.

Applications, together with a full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, should be sent to: THE CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS, c/o THE BURSAR'S OFFICE, FELSTED SCHOOL, DUNMOW, ESSEX, CM6 3JG from whom further details may be obtained. The closing date is January 16th 1993. Envelopes should be marked 'Private and Confidential'.

APPLICANT INFORMATION  
The Registrar (Ref 7), Holborn College, 200 Greyhound Road, London W14 9RY  
Telephone: 071-385 3377  
Fax: 071-381 3377 Telex: 266386

## COURSES

HOLBORN COLLEGE AND  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTONLLB  
HONOURS  
INTERNAL DEGREE IN LAW

Choose: Full-time • Part-time • Home-study

B oads and Course Planners are included at a realistic annual tuition fee of £1,180 for home study and £2,450 full-time.

● Exemptions for courses passed

● Grants for UK Students £659 pa and maintenance if applicable

● University Degree Contact

The Registrar (Ref 7), Holborn College, 200 Greyhound Road, London W14 9RY

Telephone: 071-385 3377

Fax: 071-381 3377 Telex: 266386

Supported by the French Government

AND MANY MORE

Come to NAIA for professional Training and stay in the U.S.A. for two years - legally!

Designated to Accept International Students - J-1 Status Exchange-Visitor Program - P-4-4735

CALL TOLL FREE - 0800-89-4384.

OR WRITE FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION TO:

North American Institute of Aviation

P.O. Box 869

Coxey, South Carolina 29330, USA

\* Housing and meal plan included in tuition of \$2,800.00 per year.

Reg. Charity No. 228172

WREKIN COLLEGE

Independent co-educational Boarding and Day School

LIMITED SIXTH FORM PLACES

from September 1993.

Also sixth form Scholarships available for outstanding candidates taking GCSE this summer.

Peter Johnston Esq, M.A. (Oxon)

on (0527) 240131

For further information and to arrange an appointment:

Wrekin College

Sutherland Road, Wellington, Shropshire TF1 3BG

Tel: 081-8534484

HURON UNIVERSITY

AMERICAN DEGREES IN LONDON

■ BA: Humanities, Fine Arts, Art History, International Relations

■ BSc: Business Administration, Economics &amp; Finance, Marketing, Computing, International Management, Hospitality &amp; Restaurant Management

■ MRA: English, Recent Graduate (1-3 years) Full-time/Fast-track

■ CMSS: Certificate in Management Studies Full-time/Fast-track

Discover the difference, call today!

Admissions Office, 35 Palace Gate, London SW1 SLS.

TEL: 071-521 4389/584 9696 FAX: 071-520 9406

DUFF MILLER

CIFE

A LEVEL RETAKES

65% PASS RATE (92)

TO START IN JANUARY CALL US TODAY

59 Queen's Gate, SW7 5JP

071-225 0577

DEGREE COURSES

Earn a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate degree by fulfilling your life and work experience. No exams required. Full details are provided for all work and life achievements. There are no formal examinations. We will help you obtain that vital degree qualification entirely by distance learning. We offer a wide range of subjects and courses for people who have already moved some distance towards their own goals.

Dept. T1, Stamford 18, Copenhagen 2000, Denmark

Tel: 039 35 31 51 58 14

KNIGHTSBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

STUDY LANGUAGES IN EUROPE

Courses for business and general purposes all year in many countries - including

FRENCH LANGUAGE

HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND, both for adults and ages 14-18

SIBS Lat West Wing Fen

Dayton House

Fax: 081-595 2195/020 8954 2294

HURON'S THE TIME to contact us for expert assessment and guidance. Free brochure.

●●● CAREER ANALYSTS

●●● 80 Circular Pines, NW

071-633 5452 (54 hrs)

SCHOLARSHIPS

HMC Independent 345 boys 11-18 Boarding and Day

Day Girls in Sixth Form

A number of Scholarships are available for Academic, Musical and/or Artistic ability or entry at 13+ and Sixth Form.

13+ Academic Scholarships and Exhibitions of up to a half in value will be awarded on the Scholarship Examination held in May 1993.

Scholarships for Music, Art and Technical Ability will be held on Tuesday 23rd February 1993.

6TH FORM A number of Scholarships are available for boys and girls. Scholarship examinations and interviews will be held on Monday/Tuesday 18/19 January 1993.

FURTHER DETAILS of these awards, as well as Foundation Scholarships may be obtained from the Headmaster on 0332 830706.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUPER SECRETARIES

DISPLAY C: requires marketing

position for Secretary/Office

at Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Organised and start with experience

of 2 years in a similar environment.

W.P. essential. Age 25-30.

Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Telephone: 071-385 3377

Fax: 071-381 3377 Telex: 266386

COMMUNITY CREDIT

DISPLAY C: requires marketing

position for Secretary/Office

at Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Organised and start with experience

of 2 years in a similar environment.

W.P. essential. Age 25-30.

Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Telephone: 071-385 3377

Fax: 071-381 3377 Telex: 266386

PART TIME VACANCIES

DISPLAY C: requires marketing

position for Secretary/Office

at Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Organised and start with experience

of 2 years in a similar environment.

W.P. essential. Age 25-30.

Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Telephone: 071-385 3377

Fax: 071-381 3377 Telex: 266386

SUPER SECRETARIES

DISPLAY C: requires marketing

position for Secretary/Office

at Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Organised and start with experience

of 2 years in a similar environment.

W.P. essential. Age 25-30.

Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Telephone: 071-385 3377

Fax: 071-381 3377 Telex: 266386

SUPER SECRETARIES

DISPLAY C: requires marketing

position for Secretary/Office

at Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Organised and start with experience

of 2 years in a similar environment.

W.P. essential. Age 25-30.

Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Telephone: 071-385 3377

Fax: 071-381 3377 Telex: 266386

SUPER SECRETARIES

DISPLAY C: requires marketing

position for Secretary/Office

at Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Organised and start with experience

of 2 years in a similar environment.

W.P. essential. Age 25-30.

Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Telephone: 071-385 3377

Fax: 071-381 3377 Telex: 266386

SUPER SECRETARIES

DISPLAY C: requires marketing

position for Secretary/Office

at Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

Organised and start with experience

of 2 years in a similar environment.

W.P. essential. Age 25-30.

Holborn College, London WC1A 9RY

## EDUCATION

## Cutting edge of truancy

Where should Whitehall and individual schools look for the elusive solution to the truancy problem?  
James Burrell reports

**W**hen, 18 months ago, John Patten grappled with rising crime rates at the Home Office, he saw the problem clearly. Almost half of the joy-riders, arsonists, burglars and other offenders whose records passed across his desk had been truants at school.

Mr Patten's elevation to the Cabinet in April as education secretary brought an early opportunity to respond. Truancy was suddenly brought to the top of his new department's agenda. It became almost a personal crusade as July's Education White Paper embellished the theme.

The "cycle of criminality" was too often triggered by the first moment of truancy. "It starts with hanging around street corners, drifting into shoplifting and stealing bicycles, 'progresses' to petty burglary, perhaps becoming involved with drugs and then moves on to stealing cars or criminal damage. Before long, the journey from street corner to prison cell is complete," the White Paper says.

However, the problems of planning a detailed, cohesive strategy to combat truancy are soon apparent. How many children are undermining the education system, and wasting their talents and taxpayers' money, by missing school? Instead of useful national statistics, there is a black hole. Truants are expert at not being there to answer researchers' questions and, by definition, school registers miss the largest numbers of non-attenders who skip individual lessons after signing on each morning and afternoon.

The picture facing Mr Patten is inevitably blurred and incomplete. Truants miss lessons for a myriad of reasons: bright pupils want to catch up on GCSE coursework; Asian pupils can disappear for months just before their fourteenth birthday to take advantage of child



High marks: David Thomas, who has improved attendance by 13 per cent in two years at White Hart Lane School, Haringey

air fares to the sub-continent; some single parents rely on older children to stay home for company.

The biggest-ever survey of truancy, based on 40,000 pupils aged 14-16 at more than 50 schools, will provide a snapshot in the new year. It is expected to confirm earlier, smaller studies and report that about one in three pupils have been truants and that one in five have done so to avoid particular lessons.

North London University's £184,000 investigation, commissioned by the education department, and led by Dennis O'Keeffe and Patricia Stoll, will again show that most children like school, but many hate certain subjects. It will beg questions about 13-year-olds, previously neglected in the belief that fourth and fifth-formers are the most frequent absconders.

The government's first national league tables, listing all attendance rates, will add more flesh next year. Other measures to make schools accountable are already in place. All 25,000 state primary and secondary schools in England and Wales must include an average unauthorised absence figure and the percentage of offending pupils in this year's prospectus.

But will the publicity actually shame teachers and education welfare officers into action? Will it be

enough to rely on local education authorities to tackle feckless parents who fail to ensure their children go to school by imposing a maximum fine recently increased to £1,000?

Warnings that national tables will be flawed because of the likely method of compilation go far beyond the "education establishment". Critics contend that

gaining currency with its radical alternative to traditional theory.

Dr O'Keeffe argues that the importance of truancy is not as an indicator of inner-city deprivation or fledgling criminality — just as many boys as girls truant but do not go on to offend. Instead it is a key measure of schools' performance. Children who choose to miss participation lessons are engaged in the "purest form of decision-making". Truants are rational consumers. By taking the school menu à la carte, they reveal which subjects or teachers are unsatisfactory and require remedy. His approach implies there is no

grand solution to truancy, but a series of answers discovered by individual schools as they identify and confront their particular problems.

Amid the confusion, Mr Patten is perhaps gaining clues from the actions of 31 authorities who have been given their head under a three-year £6 million government education support grant programme which, started in 1990. White Hart Lane School, in Haringey, north London, was on the verge of collapse in 1989. Just 72 per cent of pupils turned up on average, with four out of ten fifth-formers staying away some days.

Attendance was used as a focus for concerted action to turn the 720-strong school around. A

£186,000 grant brought coffee rooms with televisions for each year group, regular newsletters to keep parents in touch and inscribed mugs to reward pupils with 100 per cent attendance records. New stress was laid on school rules, uniform, detailed attendance targets and spot classroom checks to combat post-registration truancy. Special classes were provided to help pupils return after long-term absence.

"We followed the three-Rs rules, rights and responsibilities," David Thomas, the project co-ordinator, says. "We tried to make the school more welcoming for pupils and parents, while making the teachers, not the local authority, responsible for pupils as well as the teaching and curriculum to attract them."

White Hart Lane's attendance jumped by almost 13 per cent within two years and the school's target of 90 per cent is firmly within its sights. The number of pupils staying on beyond 16 has doubled.

Other authorities are harnessing new computer technology to streamline daily registration. Teachers at Warwick Park School, in Peckham, for example, now receive a daily class print-out to double-check attendance for individual lessons.

So there is progress, and effort, and movement. Ironically, however, the lesson for Mr Patten appears to be that truancy is a hydra which cannot be slain from Whitehall.

A new book will help teachers — and pupils — understand the Holocaust

## Explaining the ultimate inhumanity

**S**tudying the Holocaust is now part of the National Curriculum for pupils as young as 13. This is one of the most discussed and controversial events of the 20th century, but for most of us — and that includes many teachers — the subject is beyond comprehension.

Schools are inadequately resourced and much of the informed literature is inaccessible, particularly to those in their early teens. With so many teachers ill-equipped to deal with the enormity of one of the most momentous events in human history, it is hardly surprising that some of them choose not to teach it at all, and, of those that do, many teach it very badly.

Ronnie Landau, the head of humanities at London's City Literary Institute, and one of Britain's most experienced teachers and teacher-trainers of the Holocaust, has set out to fill the void with a new book on the subject, *The Nazi Holocaust*. While welcoming the subject onto the National Curriculum, he needs some convincing that 13 is an appropriate age or level at which to introduce pupils to what he believes is potentially the ultimate humanities topic: "We must understand that the Holocaust, for all its freakishness, was a human event — all too human."

"Without losing sight of the incomparable uniqueness of the Holocaust as an entire event it is educationally essential to break it down into a range of limited human experiences, motives, crises and responses, with which it might be easier to identify and which can stand comparison

I wanted to lift the material out of the world of the victim'



Dark memories: Nazis are forced to bury victims after Allied troops liberated Belsen concentration camp

with other predicaments." Having married into a survivor family, Landau admits that talking to his parents-in-law about what had happened to them, added a totally different dimension to his view of the Holocaust. "Probably 90 per cent of what has already been written identifies with the Jews as victims. I wanted to lift the material out of the world of the victim and away from what for many people has become 'sacred Jewish territory'."

He writes: "If there are any lessons to be derived from the Holocaust, there is no sense whatever in ascribing its execution to Satanic monsters, for then it becomes unrelated to what is humanly intelligible. Such a reading of Nazism would involve an abstract dehumanisation of Nazis — and often indiscriminately of all Germans — which was precisely the Nazi attitude towards Jews."

Sympathetic to the daunting task facing any teacher attempting to teach the subject, Landau believes that "if taught skilfully and responsibly, it can help socialise and even 'civilise' our students. If taught badly, it can be traumatising and encourage a purely negative view of all Jewish history, of Jewish people and, indeed of all victim groups."

Landau was from 1981-89, educational director of the Spiro Institute for the Study of Jewish History and Culture, based at Westfield College, London. More recently, he was a founding director of the British Holocaust Education Project. He has lectured widely in the United States, former Soviet Union and Israel.

After ten years grappling with the ideas and approaches of numerous educationists, historians, psychologists and writers from many countries, Landau has written a book which approaches the subject and its lessons within several important different contexts. These include Jewish history, modern German history, "genocide" during both the 19th and 20th centuries, and the psychology of human prejudice and racism.

The fact that Landau had to find an academic rather than an educational publisher for his project did not surprise him. "Educational publishers

insisted on knowing exactly where my book would be stored. Was it aimed at sixth-formers, teachers or university students? This isn't something you can pigeon hole. It crosses many subject boundaries."

SUE FOX

• *The Nazi Holocaust* by Ronnie S. Landau is published by I.B. Tauris & Co (£12.95).

## Policy walks a tightrope

IS ENGLISH education walking a tightrope between success and disaster? In some ways this is true at all levels — schools, vocational education and training, and higher education.

The school system — state and independent — is in turmoil. The government wants nothing less than a revolution. A national curriculum is being constructed at breakneck speed and imposed on schools by law. New management techniques and financial mechanisms are intended to create the semblance of a market in education. Examinations are being multiplied. More information is being demanded for parents — much of it in a form that even the best-informed will find misleading. This is a difficult time for independent schools, too. Their debts get bigger each term, boarding numbers are shrinking, and there are signs that more pupils are dropping out at 16.

For vocational education and training, the complement to the government's bold school reforms came in 1990 with the Confederation of British Industry's manifesto, "Toward a skills revolution". This called for a transformation of industrial training in Britain, based on the assumption that all young people should remain in education and training, full or part-time, to 18, and that adult employees should go on training and retraining throughout their working lives.

The manifesto set out national education and training targets in terms of national vocational qualifications (NVQs) and their educational equivalents by 1995. 90 per cent should attain four GCSEs at

grades A to C or NVQs at level two

— by the end of the decade. Fifty

per cent should have two A levels or NVQs at level three. Progress has been encouraging.

Yet the sense of blundering along the side of a precipice remains. The Training and Enterprise Councils are starved of funds and uncoordinated. If the targets are being attained, it is by accident rather than by well-articulated design. There is still no clear recognition that all young people need

ious basis for expansion. You cannot indefinitely reduce the ration and expect the patient to remain healthy. Marginal financing can work only at the margin. The Chancellor's Autumn Statement said the tap is to be turned off: the expansion of recent years is to taper off. Funding for next year will assume no increase in 1993 new admissions over 1992. The fee element for arts and social science students will be reduced, so competition will become sharper. There will be a cash incentive for the universities to favour science and technology — but students for these courses are in short supply.

Running universities is a long-term business. Short-term switches of direction are expensive and inefficient. The expansion policies of the government stumbled on revealed a huge unmet and unacknowledged demand for higher education — a demand that must have been there all along.

Instead of pursuing this aim with confidence, the universities must start once more to walk the tightrope, hoping, against hope, that it will all be all right on the night.

### VIEWPOINT



Stuart MacLure

*Our Pricing Information Service gives you details of main price changes before they are sent out with your next bill.*

To register for this free service simply call 0800 800 891, leave your details and we'll do the rest. (Main price changes include call charges and line rentals.) CALL FREE ON 0800 800 891.



You're more than just a number

## Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on the front panel. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily total. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the profit. If it doesn't, if you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No. Company Group Gain or loss

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Greene King	Breweries	
2	Brown & Tawse	Industrial	
3	Farmers	Building/Rds	
4	British Home	Foods	
5	Dawson	Textiles	
6	Wethampham	Building/Rds	
7	Wensley	Drayery/Str.	
8	Nora Foods	Foods	
9	Durham Kind	Newspaper/Pub	
10	Armitage	Leisure	
11	Wool & SWL	Paper/Print	
12	Taylor Woods	Building/Rds	
13	S & U	Finance, Land	
14	Junior Saphir	Foods	
15	Smith & N.V.	Drayery/Str.	
16	APN	Paper/Put	
17	Richardson West	Industrial	
18	Carlton Comm	Leisure	
19	Wavellone	Electrical	
20	Leech Arthur	Industrial	
21	Welsh Water	Water	
22	HTV Group	Leisure	
23	Amersham	Chemicals/Phs	
24	Reed Executive	Business Serv	
25	Midlands Elec	Electrical	
26	Electronics	Electrical	
27	Wain Blake	Building/Rds	
28	James Aldred	Leisure	
29	Asiacad	Building/Rds	
30	Thornton (W)	Foods	
31	Rathbone Brs	Finance, Land	
32	Exponent	Industrial	
33	Tilbury Douglas	Building/Rds	
34	Adex	Industrial	
35	Leitch	Chemicals/Phs	
36	Scapa	Industrial	
37	Wood John D	Property	
38	Ukymed	Industrial	
39	Times Group	Breweries	
40	Winstone R	Chemicals/Phs	
41	Times Newspapers Ltd. Total		

Please take into account any minus signs

## £1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eight shares in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 532727 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Six winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. They are Mr R. Glazier, of Staines, Surrey; Miss M. Mann, of Ferndown, Dorset; Mrs A. Peache, of Ryde, Isle of Wight; Mr W. Mullen, of Ulver, Humberstone, Mrs P. Gruet, of Dorking, Surrey; Mr G. Kirkland, of Weston, Southampton.

Mr. can million Company Price Wkly Net Yld % P/E

**BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP**

No.	Company	Price	Wkly	Net	Yld	%	P/E
1	Abbey Nat	80	8	10.5	1.3	16.6	17.6
2	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
3	Barclays Nod	115	11	19.5	1.5	16.5	17.6
4	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
5	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
6	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
7	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
8	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
9	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
10	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
11	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
12	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
13	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
14	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
15	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
16	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
17	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
18	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
19	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
20	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
21	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
22	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
23	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
24	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
25	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
26	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
27	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
28	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
29	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
30	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
31	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
32	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
33	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
34	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
35	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
36	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
37	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
38	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
39	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
40	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
41	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
42	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
43	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
44	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
45	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
46	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
47	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
48	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
49	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
50	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
51	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
52	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
53	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
54	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
55	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
56	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
57	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
58	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
59	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
60	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
61	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
62	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
63	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
64	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
65	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
66	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
67	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
68	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
69	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
70	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
71	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
72	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
73	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
74	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
75	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.5	15.6	17.6
76	Barclays Nat	125	12	12.5	1.		

# UN attacks economic radicals in East Europe

Economists who have long studied former socialist economies argue that their governments must build a legal and financial infrastructure to make capitalism work

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

**RADICAL** economic reform policies, as pursued by Russia and some other eastern European countries, have come in for sharp criticism from the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe.

The commission, one of the few institutions to have correctly forecast the extent of the slump in the region, blamed the collapse in eastern European trade and the effects of macroeconomic stabilisation policies for some of the present difficulties.

But in its *Economic Bulletin for Europe*, the commission also highlights dangers in economic radicalism, saying reform is in danger of being derided if eastern Europe's economic reformers fail to take account of political realities, which favour a more gradualist approach. This implicitly criticises policies such as those pursued by Vaclav Klaus, the Czech prime minister, and Yegor Gaidar, acting Russian prime minister.

In a little disguised reference to some of the academics in charge of eastern European economic policies, the report stated: "Market behaviour is not a text book optimisation procedure which can be quickly learned but the result of a long process of learning-by-doing, of learning to cope with a variety of confusing market signals, with risk and uncertainty... government must play a key role in the construction of institutions and in settling the formal rules of competitive

behaviour." The report stresses the importance of "a detailed infrastructure of specialised legal and financial institutions, regulations and regulatory authorities" as a prerequisite to a free market economy.

This year, the report notes, east European GNP will have fallen by 10 per cent and industrial production by 15 per cent. It adds: "The popular enthusiasm for a new order that accompanied the political revolutions of 1989 has, in many parts of the region, given way to disappointment and anxiety."

The commission said that "discontent can now quickly find political expression". This is a reference to, among others, a recent poll in Lithuania, where the reformed communist party won the majority of parliamentary seats. The commission sees a pattern in the economic reform politics throughout Eastern Europe, whereby initial political enthusiasm for radicalism is being replaced by a more gradualist process. The bulletin notes that Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland have made the greatest progress, but even there, reform is being hindered by social instability and political uncertainty.

The two main recommendations of the report are that more effective co-ordination of the various western financial assistance schemes is needed and that success of reform requires improved access to western markets.

## Rates boost recovery

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CUTS in interest rates since September have brought tentative signs of some recovery in consumer confidence.

Infolink, the credit information analyst, reports a sharp rise in enquiries about loans for new cars in October. There was also a 0.7 per cent rise in demand for credit, the first year-on-year rise for more than two years, and an improvement of about 2 per cent in enquiries in the retail sector.

Brian Bailey, Infolink chair-

man, said: "It is hoped that this rise in enquiries in our October figures will be translated into a corresponding increase in new credit advanced in November."

Today sees the publication of the government's latest figures for consumer credit. In September, consumers paid back £60 million. Credit outstanding is expected to have dropped by between £25 million and £40 million in October.



Pushing ahead: Alan Sugar, of Amstrad, who is meeting mounting opposition

## Embattled Sugar ponders options

By PHILIP PANGALOS

**SPECULATION** has intensified that Alan Sugar, the founder of Amstrad, may sell or substantially reduce his stake in the consumer electronics group if, as appears increasingly likely, he is defeated this week in his bid to take the company private.

Gideon Fiegel, of the Amstrad Shareholders' Club, has lodged proxies for up to 1.5 million shares. He said: "My very substantial mailbag indicates that the majority of shareholders who put their faith in Mr Sugar and bought when shares were high are due to lose large sums of money if they are compelled to sell to Mr Sugar now.

Whereas, if the offer does not succeed, they can lock their shares away and wait for recovery.

He has met mounting shareholder resistance to his plan to buy the 65 per cent of Amstrad shares he will not already own, at 30p a share, and a growing number of institutional investors are expected to oppose the offer.

Mr Sugar said that if he is defeated at Thursday's shareholders' meeting he will have to start worrying about himself. That has prompted suggestions that he might sell, or substantially reduce, his remaining shares if the bid fails.

However, sources close to him insist he would stay whatever they did not deny that he may reduce his stake. An opponent of Mr Sugar's plan suggested buyers, including an interested party from the Far East, were in the wings.

A polling firm hired by Mr Sugar telephoned shareholders at the weekend to encourage them to vote. To win, he needs 75 per cent of shares voted as well as a simple majority among shareholders

Comment, Letters, page 34

## Coal town suffers second blow

By JON ASHWORTH

DOZENS of families in the Nottinghamshire coal mining town of Bilsthorpe are waiting to learn whether Christmas will be bleaker than they feared after receivers moved in at Guy Warwick, one of the UK's largest trouser makers.

Touche Ross, the receiver, is trying to find a buyer for the company, which has a factory in Bilsthorpe and supplies C&A and Top Shop, among others. A dearth of orders during recession is blamed for Guy Warwick's plight.

Bilsthorpe is one of the pits earmarked for possible closure by British Coal and many of the miners' wives work for Guy Warwick.

Guy Warwick had an annual turnover of £4.5 million with 242 employees in Bilsthorpe, Bilsthorpe, Walesby and Newark. The factory in Bilsthorpe has 111 workers. Miles Burger, managing director, said short-time working was already in force.

"The question on everybody's lips is: if he's defeated what next? Everybody says the share price will stamp. I think this is a mistake. If, with the help of institutions, new management are brought in, the company would be managed for the shareholder."

Touche Ross hopes the first-class nature of the equipment and goodwill of the employees will attract potential buyers.

## REPORTING THIS WEEK

### Flat first half likely for Scottish & Newcastle

TODAY

**SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE**, the brewing and leisure group, will probably report a flat first-half performance, as depressed beer markets and the recession's northward drift take their toll.

S&N, which is headed by

Sir Alick Rankin, the outgoing chairman, and whose beer brands include

McEwan's Lager, Newcastle Brown and Theakston Bitter,

will have seen depressed beer

markets and restricted con-

sumer spending as the re-

cession's chill is felt in the

North. Increased competi-

tion from the likes of Bass will

not have helped matters.

The Center Parcs holiday

operation may have suffered

over the summer, but was

more resilient at other times

and should have done well,

boosted by high occupancy

rates, although these may

come under pressure as the

recession squeezes other

Europeans.

Interims: Airspring, Furniture

Group, Associated British Engi-

neering, Manweb, NMC, Phoenix Tim-

ber Group, Proteus, Stirling Group,

Stobart, Sunbeam, Cumbria Pro-

jects, Grange, Grange, Gruenwalds

Group, River Plate &

General Investment Trust.



Pilkington: drop expected

Greennals, the public house and hotel group that owns the Belfry golf club, is expected to turn in full-year pre-tax profits of £6.2 million, including £6 million of property, compared with £5.1 million, including £10 million of property, according to David Thompson at Kleinwort Benson. Forecast range from £5.8 million to £6.5 million.

Interims: Airspring, Furniture

Group, Associated British Engi-

neering, Manweb, NMC, Phoenix Tim-

ber Group, Proteus, Stirling Group,

Stobart, Sunbeam, Cumbria Pro-

jects, Grange, Grange, Gruenwalds

Group, River Plate & General Investment Trust.

**WEDNESDAY**

Pilkington, the glass maker

led by Sir Antony Pilkington,

is expected to unveil a stimp

in profits as depressed condi-

tions in the automotive and

construction industries take

their toll. Mark Hake at

Nikko, the Japanese securities

house, expects interim pre-tax

profits to dive to £15 million

(£5.6 million), with a reduced

dividend of 2p (2.93p) predicted.

Market forecasts range from

£15 million to £25 million.

Julie Ramshaw at Morgan

Stanley, the American securi-

ties house, expects Great Uti-

ties Stores, the mall owner to

property group, to turn in

interim pre-tax profits of £187

million (£18.25 million), ex-

cluding property gains. Mar-

ket forecasts range from £186

million to £196 million.

Final profits at Compass

Group, the catering and

healthcare group, are expected

to rise to between £35 million

and £37 million, against £32

million last time.

Interims: Arlen, Booth Indus-

tries, British Land Company, Eve

Group, Fuller, Smith & Turner, Great

West, Hammerson, Hulme Smith

WMP, International, Joseph (Le-

opol) Holdings, London Merchant

Securities, Midlands Electricity,

Moorgate Investment Trust, Moor-

gate Smaller Companies Income

Trust, Pilkington, South Western

Electricity, Stewart & Wight, Tain-

ton Colliery.

Finals: API Group, Archer (A.),

Compass Group, Dreyfus Recovery

Trust, Eridge Pipe & Co, Johnson

& Firth Brown, Lynx Holdings,

Wessco, Widney.

**FRIDAY**

Interims: Albion, Barrow Hepburn

Group, Osborne & Little, Parkland

Textile (Holdings), Worth Invest-

ment Trust.

Finals: Southern Radio.

Interims: Usable steel

production (November), construc-

tion output (third quarter — pro-

visional), retail price index and tax

and price index (November), capi-

tal issues and redemptions

(November).

**PHILIP PANGALOS**

## GILT-EDGED

### Goodhart's Law haunts new monetary policy

NEXT year the government

will be forced to sell £1 billion of gilts every week to meet its funding target. This looks difficult enough while there were expectations of further falls in interest rates, but, even worse, last week the markets started to wonder whether base rates had reached a floor.

M0, notes and coins in circulation, rose 0.8 per cent in November, after 0.4 and 0.6 per cent increases the previous two months. The six-month annualised rate of growth is now 4 per cent, touching the ceiling of its 0.4 per cent target range.

Goodhart's Law — as soon as you target a variable it will start to misbehave — also seems to be at work on many of the Chancellor's other chosen monetary indicators.

First, the rate of growth of M4 picked up in October. At that stage the authorities were about £9 billion overfunded and because of this Mr Lamont said the pace of gilt sales would be reduced in the remaining months of the financial year. As the overfund unwinds, M4 will accelerate further.

Second, retail price data on Friday should show the headline and underlying rates

to make economic policy less opaque. It will undoubtedly mention M4 and the general message will be of growing signs that recovery is finally starting. We doubt the Treasury will want to talk about applying the brakes even before the engine is switched on, but it is likely to say enough to make the gilts market pause

## COMMENT

## Cadbury tastes better than Sugar

Early voting returns suggest Alan Sugar has failed to convince thousands of fellow Amstrad shareholders that his scheme to buy them out at 30p a share is a good deal. Many object to being offered so much less than the 46p per share asset value recently published in the accounts, much of which was then in cash. Some are unhappy on more emotional grounds. Resistance is not confined to indignant small shareholders. Two big names among the institutions, which control most of the shares eligible to be voted at Amstrad's meeting on Thursday, have stuck their heads above the parapet. Andrew Threadgold of Postel will vote its stake of nearly 2 per cent against, partly because he has not had enough independent information on prospects to put his own value on the company and is not prepared to rely on Mr Sugar's alibi.

Amstrad's founder might chuckle at such use of words, but cannot see the difficulty. He wants to take his group private, reckons he knows its worth and that he is offering a fair deal. Were it not for the timing and contradictions, that might be a sensible idea. Mr Sugar never really got used to running a public company and being accountable to the City. He still seems to see Amstrad as his company. He did not relish running Amstrad as it had become, so instead of handing over to someone else, his instinct was to change it to what he wants, offering those investors a "gracious exit".

Amstrad's boss would also make his exit from the listed company arena, which promises to become even less congenial to an independent-minded venturer as the new thinking embodied in the Cadbury code of corporate governance takes hold. There is no better example of the need for such a code than Amstrad. This was a one-man band if ever there was one. Going public and selling shares to passive investors should be the signal to change all that.

**H**ad a non-executive chairman been installed to complement Mr Sugar, leaving him to the trading, the group would surely have kept a better image in the City and investors would surely have understood it better, even if that made not a jot of difference to the ups and downs of business. In practice, a wider board perspective should have helped avoid mistakes made when Mr Sugar turned Amstrad into something more complex and left it unmanaged. Amstrad might have planned earlier for stiffer competition and the apparent lack of new blockbuster products, which has struck Mr Sugar as a bolt from the blue. It might even have planned to do without its trading genius.

Even if independent non-executive directors had failed miserably to do what they were paid for, as is so often the case, they would at least have been able to play a role in Mr Sugar's attempted buy-in, avoiding the rancour and suspicion from former admirers that now surround him. They would have taken independent advice and tried to evaluate the terms and the other options on behalf of shareholders with much more objectivity. Sadly, they were not there.

Many institutions, ever eager for the quiet life and lowest risk, may be tempted to draw a line under Amstrad as an incurable relic of the old school. That might give the wrong message. How much better to say no and accept the challenge of making Amstrad a model for the future. Given its brand names and distribution system, good management should be able to make the company worth more than the balance sheet value of its assets. Mr Sugar is a fighter and might well take up that challenge. This may be a lean time for new consumer electronics. Amstrad's formula of spotting exciting new products and tailoring them for a mass market should have a long-term future. If Mr Sugar felt he could not adapt, or would prefer to try again elsewhere, other able folk are lean and hungry enough to fill the gap.

**C**ompanies announce intended redundancies to impress shareholders and flatter balance sheets, writes Anatole Kaletsky

**W**hat on earth is going on? Government officials are saying with growing assurance that the recession is now over and that statistic bear them out. Yet anybody who reads newspapers or listens to the chairman of Britain's leading companies will know that the story they present is very different.

Retail sales and car registrations may be rising faster in Britain than in any other industrialised country. The money supply may be expanding, stock prices hitting new records and even house prices finally stabilising. But workers are being sacked in ever-increasing numbers. "With 17,500 job losses announced on Thursday alone", as the *Financial Times* noted at the weekend. While the scourge of unemployment strikes terror across the land, consumers and house buyers will not start to spend.

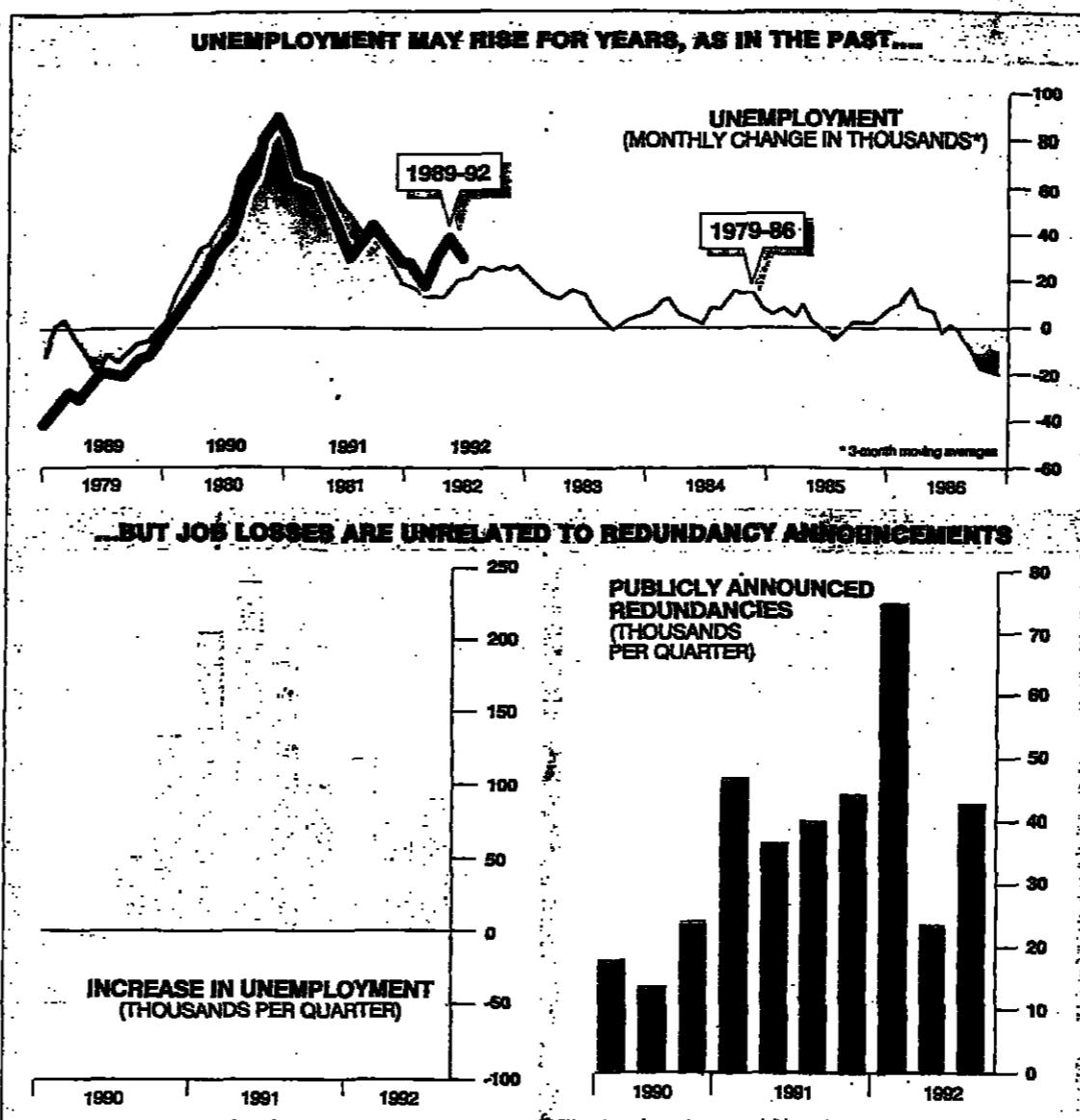
That seems to be the conventional wisdom among businessmen and economic forecasters. It is almost certainly wrong. This is a time to believe the relatively favourable official statistics, rather than gloomy surveys of confidence and grim warnings from businessmen.

I do not want to sound Panglossian. The official statistics suggest only a feeble recovery — too weak for example, to avert the impending bankruptcy of the British government described in this column two weeks ago. But these long-term problems can be put to one side until they turn into financial crises in the usual British way. In the meantime, the country can start to enjoy some modest consumer-led growth.

But what about those bloodcurdling headlines on unemployment? "Post Office to axe 16,000 in new surge of job losses", *The Times* declared on Friday. How can there be any hope of a consumer-led recovery in destroying jobs?

As a journalist, it pains me to do it, but as an economist I must reveal the truth: the newspaper headlines can be completely ignored. The first reason is that unemployment always continues to rise for many months after a recession is over. The second is far more interesting: in this recession, company directors are deliberately exaggerating their determination to "axe" thousands of jobs.

Before unemployment can start to fall, its rate of increase must gradually decline towards zero. This is exactly what has been happening since the middle of last year as the top chart shows. Why, then, the widespread impression that the rate of redundancies is growing, that, to quote *The Times* front page last Friday, "the



wave of redundancies has turned into a flood?" In general, the papers are only reporting what the captains of industry are saying. But these people, at the same time as calling on ministers to "restore confidence", are engaging in a bizarre contest to publicise and exaggerate their ferocity in destroying jobs.

Take last week's announcement of the 16,000 jobs "axed" by the Post Office. The small print showed these cuts would be implemented over five years, had almost nothing to do with the recession and would be introduced "as painlessly as possible", through natural wastage. The Post Office announcement was not an isolated incident. Two weeks earlier, the Royal Bank of Scotland announced 3,500 "job cuts". But these too, were to be spread over five years and achieved by natural wastage. In fact, the reduction in the bank's staff in the year ahead was not likely to be bigger than the fall that had occurred in the past 12 months.

As Terry Smith, the former head of equity research at UBS Phillips & Drew, now working at Collins Stewart & Co, observes: "In all my years of following the banks, I cannot think of a single case where all the job

reductions they announced have actually taken place." Why then all the sound and fury about job cuts?

First, there is the cult of management machismo. In the late 1980s, managers used to brag about "maximising shareholder values". In practice, this meant that companies vie with each other to take on ever-larger debts in order to pay out inflated dividends or make leveraged takeovers and buyouts. Today, "effective management" is considered synonymous with laying off workers. Redundancies impress shareholders.

"Labour force reduction is a message that is generally well-received by shareholders," concedes one of Britain's leading consultants on shareholder relations. "It is seen as evidence of strong management and a willingness to take tough decisions.

If there are any costs, analysts will tend to discount them as exceptional items, while the benefits go straight through to earnings per share. Sometimes, people come to us who are

planning redundancies and ask us whether to make an announcement. From a shareholder relations point of view we will usually recommend it. Even if there is no material financial impact, shareholders will usually see it as positive news."

A partner in one of the City's biggest financial public relations firms goes further: "We have had many cases where redundancies were mentioned at the bottom of a press release and the chairman has insisted they be put right at the top. Especially if dividends are being cut, shareholders like to see that managers are sharing the pain with the workforce. In one case, a client of ours announced 2,000 redundancies and

one of his competitors in the same industry rang us up. 'How did X get away with it?' the competitor said. 'Those 2,000 redundancies were the same as the ones X announced last year and I will bet he won't get those jobs out this year either. You PR people are doing a great job for X'."

But the fashion for accentuating the negative is not just a matter of PR. More important, according to several investment analysts and shareholder relations advisers, is the impact on a company's reported profits of expressing an intention to fire.

At present, redundancy costs can often be reported as an "extraordinary item" in a company's accounts and does not therefore affect the earnings per share from continuing operations, which is the key to the stock market's judgment on how well a company is doing and how well its dividend is covered. By contrast, the lower staff costs implied by a five-year redundancy programme can be calculated by analysts and will tend to improve earnings projections.

**T**his accounting imbalance between the costs and benefits of redundancies has always existed, but it has recently been exacerbated by a new, and ironic, development. According to many accountants, the present accounting method, known as Statement of Standard Accounting Practice 6, has been far too lax in allowing companies to present redundancies as extraordinary items. Terry Smith notes: "I know of one major food company that has had redundancy costs as an extraordinary item every year in the last eight years — this is an abuse not only of the accounts, but as a result accountants have agreed to introduce a new, more rigorous approach, known as Financial Reporting Standard 3.

Under FRS 3, redundancy costs can be charged only as they are paid out and must come out of reported profits. But FRS 3 does not come into full effect until June next year. Companies that have not yet switched to FRS 3 are therefore under a strong temptation to announce as many redundancies as possible before then, even if these are unlikely to be implemented for years (if at all). Once FRS 3 is introduced, companies making the switch will have to restate their earnings from 1992 under the new standard. But, as Mr Smith observes, and several other analysts confirm off the record, there is nothing companies like more than revising profits from past years downwards, since this flatters current-year figures.

I do not know how much of this nonsense is going on and how many "axed" jobs will reappear one day as profitable write-backs of redundancy provisions. But I do know the facts presented in the lower chart, kindly compiled by Sarah Lewis of UBS Phillips & Drew: redundancy announcements bear no relation to the number of jobs actually lost. So next time the newspapers warn you about the Sword of Damocles hanging over your job, turn to another story.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Institutions should replace Amstrad management

From Mr G. Lakemaker

put at the EGM on December 10 without the help of the institutions. But who are the institutions?

When looking through the share register, I find out that of the 30 shareholders holding more than one million shares

there are 17 nominees, four banks and five trustee companies.

I am given to understand that as an individual I cannot get the names of the owners of the shares. (I am sure Mr Sugar will correct me again if my information is wrong.) Only the company can demand this disclosure.

This seems to put Mr Sugar and his directors in a very advantageous position, giving them the opportunity to convince (or frighten) the institutions.

The small shareholders do not have the opportunity to make their opinions or suggestions known without the assistance of ours.

It was reported in *The Sunday Times* (Jeff Randall, November 22): "Few fund managers are delighted by Sugar's proposed terms, but equally, they know the company is worth very little without him." Is this country so poor that we only have one entrepreneur?

While promising to do his best for the company if he is defeated (after all, he owns 34 per cent) Mr Sugar said at the annual meeting: "I became depressed about Amstrad losing its way, and want to exit from a bottomless pit of problems."

Through this letter, I implore the institutions to defeat the resolutions and appoint a new, hungry management which still has the incentive to rebuild this well-established company of ours.

Yours faithfully,  
G. LAKEMAKER,  
41 Gayton Road,  
Harrow, Middlesex.

Letters to *The Times*  
Business and Finance  
section can be sent by  
fax on 071-782 5112.

## Talking turkey at Safeway

From Mr D. G. C. Webster

Sir, I am replying to Mr Cover's letter of December 3 relating to Safeway's current promotion of Christmas turkeys.

Safeway is fully committed to supporting British farmers. Evidence of this can be seen through our work on the Strachey Food Project which aims to reduce the £5 billion trade gap of imported food and drink by developing further opportunities for British food producers.

Our current major turkey promotion consists mainly of British birds. We normally carry a small quantity of French poultry as an addition-

al source of supply. However, to put this into perspective, last year Safeway sold 376,000 British turkeys and 104,000 French. This year, due to the success of the promotion, we have sold 576,000 British turkeys, 200,000 more than last year, and 149,000 French.

I feel it is also important to point out that our total annual poultry purchases are 96 per cent British and 4 per cent French.

Yours faithfully  
D. G. C. WEBSTER  
Deputy Chairman,  
Argyll Group Plc,  
8 Chesterfield Hill,  
W1.

## Why it is right to subsidise small farmers

From Sir Julian Rose

Sir, In European View (December 1), Wolfgang Münchau's appraisal of French farmers' opposition to the Gatt round fails to come up with a convincing argument for replacing the subsidised "small farmer" with a more market force inspired, unaided agriculture.

Like many commentators, Mr Münchau fails to recognise that it is a flawed conventional wisdom which views economic advancement as detached from social, cultural and environmental advancement. An accurate assessment of the most efficient way to produce food comes up with the surprising fact that the small-scale, skilled, low-tech producer will nearly always show a greater return per hectare than the large-scale, high-tech equivalent. The small-scale producer, more reliant upon human input and the maximisation of local renewable resources, approach-

es his/her land in a far more detailed and thorough way than the supermarket inspired one man with one tractor on 500 hectares ever can. It is highly unlikely that the world will ever be able to feed itself through forcing the rural workforce off the land and into overcrowded cities hundreds of miles from the point of food production.

It is high time that we woke up to the imminent demise of our own smaller-scale family farms, currently succumbing at the rate of 10,000 a year to our own government as well as Gatt-style policies, hell bent on "efficient" factory farming, tailored to meet highly centralised mass production policies and the ecologically destabilising monoculture cropping patterns that follow in their wake.

Yours faithfully,  
SIR JULIAN ROSE,  
Hardwick Estate Office,  
Hardwick House,  
Whitchurch, Reading.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Rhyming secrets of regulators

FIRST

insider trading, now

insider rhyming.

The publication of the cheeky *Poems from the Square Mile* has set City cognoscenti guessing who the anonymous scribes might be.

Far from being the teenage scribblers many supposed, the two rhymers — pseudonyms Gog and Magog — are distinguished City regulators. This gives added spice to some of the poems in the book, in particular the last one, which can now be seen as an insight into what the regulators really think.

"They said that regulation would clean up all the mess; That off that's wrong, just carries on. They'd rather not confess."

Gog, we are told, is a lawyer in the futures and options area and Magog a senior investment regulator. They met at regulatory meetings and discovered their "common interest". They are not willing to go public, but their secret may be out before much longer.

City jumble

FROM January 1, the newly expanded Hongkong and Shanghai bank will have its headquarters in London, but let us hope its new chief executive, John Bond, will not try to use the bank's Christmas card as a route map. If he does, he is likely to suffer severe disappointment or be extremely lost.

The snowy river panorama shows the Monument to the wrong side of St Paul's, the cathedral steps leading down to the river, the Lloyd's building

The next Danish verdict on Maastricht appears to be a foregone conclusion for oil giant Esso. Its corporate diary for 1993 features a map of Europe on which somebody has thoughtfully shaded in all the countries of the European Community — except for Denmark. Does Esso really think the Danes are so fed up with the EC that they will pull out entirely? "I don't know anything about it," says a harassed spokesman. "It's a printer's error."

## Seelig's return

WHILE Lord Spens celebrated his Guiness acquittal, former Morgan Grenfell corporate financier Roger Seelig was happily hidden away in the English countryside this weekend. He was able to deny for himself rumours that he had "run off to find himself in India". Seelig suffered a nervous breakdown while defending himself in court during the Guiness trial but says a hermit's life in an ashram would not be for him. "I've been round the world on a mixture of business, charity and pleasure and southern India was all there," he says. Indian ventures are a possibility, but "I was rather keen to do something closer to home," Seelig admits. Next year will reveal more. "I'm fit and well and determined to start the new year more actively, one way or another."

Smiles at the BBC Business Breakfast programme where the first early-bird Christmas card has just arrived. The sender, aptly enough — the Post Office.

W  
atch  
News at Ten tonight  
and see a  
small boy  
consumed by  
a big cat.



Letters to *The Times*  
Business and Finance  
section can be sent by  
fax on 071-782 5112.

lality  
arns  
rship

## BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (83610)  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Tanya Sillem present news and topical travel bulletins (40174026)  
9.05 *Kirky*: Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (2041200) 9.45 *Ross King*: Quiz game show (s) (6033194) 10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (38652010) 10.05 *Playdays* (r)  
10.30 *Good Morning... with Anne and Nick*: Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. (s) With *News* and weather at 11.05 and 12.00 (48931668)  
12.15 *Pebble Mill*: Among Judi Spiers' guests is singer Dannii Minogue (s) (8749552) 12.55 *Regional News* with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (32216)  
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (32216)  
1.30 *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (s) (21221669) 1.50 *Going for Gold*: General knowledge quiz with European contestants. The question master is Henry Kelly (s) (21224844)  
2.15 *Paradise*: Western adventure series (4017118) 3.05 *Family Affairs* presented by the mother and daughter team of Gloria Huniford and Carol Keating. This week, news of the latest resuscitation methods, the importance of immunisation and advice on helping children with computers (3877295)  
3.35 *Cartoons*: Two featuring *Daffy Duck* (5038991) 3.45 *Henry's Cat* (r) (824200) 3.50 *Whitburn*: Welsh series presented by Violet and Mark Evans. (t) (s) (5310736) 4.05 *Gordon T. Gopher*: Puppet series (r) (7454729) 4.15 *Jimbo and the Jet Set* (r) (2427216) 4.20 *Watt on Earth*: Science fiction comedy thriller (s) (5242945) 4.35 *Peter Pan and the Pirates*: (Ceefax) (s) (5083571)  
4.55 *Roundabout* (5830338) 5.00 *Blue Peter*: Includes a visit to John Leslie's home city of Edinburgh and the latest news of the Blue Peter Care appeal. (Ceefax) (s) (8018688)  
5.35 *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (s) (124945) 5.50 *Northern Ireland: Inside Out*: News of the latest trick in the multi-million dollar gem fraud industry (Ceefax) (s) (4842)



Flag-waving patriots: the French wartime paratroopers (8.00pm)

6.00 *'Alio 'Alio*: The villagers of Nounou find that their plans for the Fishmongers' Parade conflict with the Germans' plot to assassinate Hitler. (Ceefax) (s) (9674)  
8.30 *Get Back*: Last in the series of the Laurence Marks and Maudie Gran recession comedy starring Ray Winstone, Carol Harrison and Larry Lamb. (Ceefax) (s) (521261)  
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) Weather (1944)  
9.30 *Panorama In the Name of Satan*? Martin Bashir reports from Britain and the United States on allegations of satanic and ritual abuse of children (611216)  
10.10 *Film 92 with Barry Norman*: The latest releases reviewed including *Home Alone 2 - Lost in New York* and *Into the West*. There is also a report on how merchandising from films has become big business (s) (523129) Northern Ireland: 29 *Live*; Wales: *Between Ourselves*  
10.40 *Come Dancing*: London North and Sheffield compete for a place in next week's final (s) (841200). Northern Ireland: 10.45 *Film 92*: Wales: *Faces Off*  
11.15 *Farewell, Feb 208*: John Pitman takes an affectionate look at Radio Luxembourg, the commercial station which transmits its last broadcast at the end of the year (r). (Ceefax) (253281) Northern Ireland: *Come Dancing* 11.50 *Careering Ahead*; Wales: *Come Dancing* 11.50 *Film 92*  
11.55 *Careering Ahead*: A look at the help servicemen and women receive when returning to civilian life (r) (923113)  
12.25 *Sam Weather* (5989953): Northern Ireland: 12.20-12.40 *The Sky at Night*; Wales 12.20 *Farewell, Feb 208*: 1.00 *Careering Ahead* 1.30 *News and weather*

## VARIATIONS

**ANGLIA** As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Blockbusters* (2086710) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (205197)  
**BORDER** As London except: 3.20pm-5.10 *Sons and Daughters* (3788904) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (2056718) 5.50-6.00 *Lookerino* (5747) 6.30-7.00 *Take the High Road* (446) 7.30-8.00 *Wrestling* (747224) 8.10 *British Soap Awards* (5040159) 8.25-8.35 *GP* (3788904) 8.45-9.00 *Jobfinder* (2159865)  
**HTV WEST** As London except: 4.15pm-5.15 *Love at First Sight* (3125129) 5.25-5.35 *A County Practice* (3788904) 5.50-5.40 *Home and Away* (2056718) 6.00-6.30 *HTV News* (205197) 6.35-7.00 *HTV Sports* (205197) 7.35-8.00 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115)  
**ITSLISTER** As London except: 4.15pm-5.15 *Fair City* (3125129) 5.25-5.35 *Blockbusters* (3788904) 5.50-6.00 *Home and Away* (2056718) 6.00-6.30 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115)  
**HTV WALES** As HTV West except 6.00pm *Wales at Six* 6.30-7.00 *Primetime*  
**TSW** As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Blockbusters* (2086710) 6.00-6.30 *TSW Today* (5747) 6.30-7.00 *Home and Away* (246) 12.30am *Wrestling* (747224) 1.10 *GP* (5041615) 2.15 *Home and Away* (2056718) 6.00-6.30 *HTV News* (205197) 6.35-7.00 *HTV Sports* (205197) 7.35-8.00 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115)  
**CENTRAL** As London except: 4.15pm-5.10 *Blockbusters* (2086710) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (2056718) 5.50-6.00 *GP* (3788904) 6.25-6.35 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115)  
**TV5** As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Home and Away* (2056718) 6.00-6.30 *Coast to Coast* (5747) 6.30-7.00 *A Taste of the Country* (246)

## TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.45pm-2.45 *A County Practice* (5040159) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (2056718) 6.00-6.30 *Granite Report* (5017718) 6.30-7.00 *Granite Top Ten* (5017718) 7.30-8.00 *Heads or Tails* (5017718) 8.30 *The Hit Man* and *Her Jobfinder* (5043040) 4.45-5.30 *Jobfinder* (2159865)

## S4C

As London except: Starts 6.00am *Ulysses 31* (1188292) 6.25 *Dangerous* (2002059) 6.30 *Horror* (1167367) 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (503939) 9.00 *You Bet Your Life* (5038549) 9.25 *Make Mine Music* (5038549) 10.00 *It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World* (5038549) 10.30 *Double Identity* (5042945) 2.15 *Entertainment UK*: 3.15 *ITV Chart Show* (642955) 4.15 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 5.10-5.30 *Jobfinder* (2174088)

## SKY ONE

As London except: 4.15pm-5.15 *Fair City* (3125129) 5.25-5.35 *Blockbusters* (3788904) 5.50-6.00 *Home and Away* (2056718) 6.00-6.30 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 6.35-7.00 *TV News* (205197) 7.30-8.00 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 8.30-8.45 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 9.00-9.15 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 9.30-9.45 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 10.00-10.15 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 10.30-10.45 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 11.00-11.15 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 11.30-11.45 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 12.00-12.15 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 12.30-12.45 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.00-1.15 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.30-1.45 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.50-1.55 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.55-1.58 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.58-1.59 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.59-1.60 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.60-1.61 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.61-1.62 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.62-1.63 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.63-1.64 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.64-1.65 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.65-1.66 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.66-1.67 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.67-1.68 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.68-1.69 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.69-1.70 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.70-1.71 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.71-1.72 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.72-1.73 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.73-1.74 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.74-1.75 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.75-1.76 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.76-1.77 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.77-1.78 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.78-1.79 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.79-1.80 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.80-1.81 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.81-1.82 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.82-1.83 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.83-1.84 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.84-1.85 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.85-1.86 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.86-1.87 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.87-1.88 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.88-1.89 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.89-1.90 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.90-1.91 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.91-1.92 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.92-1.93 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.93-1.94 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.94-1.95 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.95-1.96 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.96-1.97 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.97-1.98 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.98-1.99 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.99-1.10 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.10-1.11 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.11-1.12 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.12-1.13 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.13-1.14 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.14-1.15 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.15-1.16 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.16-1.17 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.17-1.18 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.18-1.19 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.19-1.20 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.20-1.21 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.21-1.22 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.22-1.23 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.23-1.24 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.24-1.25 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.25-1.26 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.26-1.27 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.27-1.28 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.28-1.29 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.29-1.30 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.30-1.31 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.31-1.32 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.32-1.33 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.33-1.34 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.34-1.35 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.35-1.36 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.36-1.37 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.37-1.38 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.38-1.39 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.39-1.40 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.40-1.41 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.41-1.42 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.42-1.43 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.43-1.44 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.44-1.45 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.45-1.46 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.46-1.47 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.47-1.48 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.48-1.49 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.49-1.50 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.50-1.51 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.51-1.52 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.52-1.53 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.53-1.54 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.54-1.55 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.55-1.56 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.56-1.57 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.57-1.58 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.58-1.59 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.59-1.60 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.60-1.61 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.61-1.62 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.62-1.63 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.63-1.64 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.64-1.65 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.65-1.66 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.66-1.67 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.67-1.68 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.68-1.69 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.69-1.70 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.70-1.71 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.71-1.72 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.72-1.73 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.73-1.74 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.74-1.75 *ITV* (Ceefax) (s) (1115) 1.75-1.76 *ITV* (Ceefax) (

Anatole Kaletsky  
puts job picture  
in proper focus

# BUSINESS

MONDAY DECEMBER 7 1992

AMSTRAD VOTE 33, 35

Options are being  
discussed if Alan Sugar  
fails in his offer

## Bankers agree waivers on GPA debt deals

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING  
CORRESPONDENT

BANKERS to GPA Group, the troubled Irish aircraft leasing group, have agreed a series of waivers on agreements for the company's \$3.5 billion borrowings, to allow the company to continue negotiating a debt rescheduling. GPA is already accepting that the company that would emerge from a deal with the banks would be smaller and less profitable.

Sources close to the negotiations said the waivers should be completed next week and will free GPA from the requirement to tell the banks at regular intervals that there has been no material adverse change in its operations.

A majority of GPA's 100 banks agreed to the waivers that the company needs to avoid being in breach of its loan covenants. The waivers will cover both GPA's main \$2.1 billion Corporate Credit

Facility, the \$1.1 billion Associated Credit Facility and the smaller interim credit facility and Japanese club loan.

GPA's success in gaining cooperation from its banks is the first stage in the complex debt rescheduling being organised by Citibank.

The group wants to defer \$900 million of principal repayments for up to two years because of its inability to raise funds on the capital markets after the withdrawal of its \$800 million share flotation this summer. The company is talking to leading aircraft makers to try to defer or cancel some of the \$5 billion of orders agreed for the next five years.

GPA's profits will suffer in future due to the increase in interest the banks are demanding on their loans and the removal of discounts the group was able to arrange from aircraft makers.

Citibank is one of GPA's largest creditors and is thought to be owed at least \$200 million. National Westminster has the largest exposure among British banks. It has agreed to be the agent bank in the negotiations and will have the responsibility of drawing up the final details and documentation for the rescheduling. John Melbourn, the bank's director in charge of credit quality, is in charge of the talks.

GPA hopes to complete the talks in the first quarter of next year. The banks are being offered generous fees and interest rate margins if they agree to the terms. GPA currently pays only 0.85 per cent above the London interbank offered rate (Libor) on its main facility.

If the rescheduling succeeds, the debt repayments will be made through a new facility called the deferred amount facility, which is expected to carry an interest margin of 2 per cent or more above the interbank rate. "This will be expensive. These things are always expensive," said one senior figure involved in the negotiations.

Mr Gardner told the wholesalers that the argument that areas were already well served was destroyed by recent practices of allowing superstores to enter the newspaper and magazine market without creating exponential growth in the overall market.

## VG chief hits out at paper wholesalers

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE head of VG supermarket group has written to WH Smith, John Menzies UK and other leading newspaper wholesalers, accusing them of prejudicing the survival of independent grocers.

The letter is part of its campaign to persuade the monopolies commission to open the newspaper wholesale business to wider competition.

In August, the commission announced an investigation into newspaper distribution after the Office of Fair Trading said it was concerned about the barriers to entry to retail newspaper sales. Its findings are due to be published next July.

In his letter, John Gardner, managing director of VG, which has been leading the campaign to allow Britain's 42,000 independent stores to

sell newspapers, said: "A free and competitive market is not operating, current practices operated by your companies are not in the public interest; and community stores are being prejudiced unfairly by the refusal of your companies to allow them to sell and deliver newspapers."

Mr Gardner argued that independent grocers have found their business under threat from newsagents which "are expanding their stores to become grocers as well as newsagents".

Mr Gardner told the wholesalers that the argument that areas were already well served was destroyed by recent practices of allowing superstores to enter the newspaper and magazine market without creating exponential growth in the overall market.

THE GLASS DIFFERENCE

## LIMOUSINES TO 140 U.S. CITIES FROM CONTINENTAL

You may not be altogether surprised to hear that we can offer to fly you to New York and Houston every day of the week by 747. Not to mention 4 times a week non stop to Denver. And onwards to over 140 US cities. After all, we are one of the world's largest airlines.

The difference is that we also offer to collect our business class travellers from home\* and take them to Gatwick by limousine. But then extra class always was one of our strengths. And we're getting stronger all the time.

Continental  
Airlines

One Airline Can Make A Difference.

\*Available within 40 miles radius of Gatwick Airport.



Talking terms with the banks: Maurice Foley, deputy chairman of GPA, left, with chairman Tony Ryan

## Swiss Bank plans action on Maxwell loan

SWISS Bank Corporation, which sparked the collapse of Robert Maxwell's business empire a year ago, is planning legal action against prominent City firms to try to recover a £55.8 million loan to a Maxwell company (Neil Bennett writes).

The money was lent to Adviser (188) to buy the First Tokyo Index Trust in the summer of 1991.

Swiss Bank is believed to have spent more than £2 million on legal and accountancy fees in the receivership of Adviser (188). This has only confirmed

that the shares in the trust were sold by Mr Maxwell to repay other debts in private companies. Recoveries at Robert Maxwell Group and its subsidiaries are not expected to allow Swiss Bank to recover its funds.

Swiss Bank's loan was secured on the shares in the investment trust. When Mr Maxwell secretly sold them, he promised he would repay the loan. The deadline was November 5, the day Mr Maxwell fell from his yacht off the Canary Isles. Swiss Bank then asked the Serious Fraud

Office to investigate the shares' disappearance, prompting the discovery of fraud.

A series of merchant banks and securities houses helped in the administration of the First Tokyo Index Trust and the takeover by Adviser (188). They include Morgan Stanley, the custodian of the trust's shares, Lehman Brothers, which is believed to have taken some of the shares as security on a loan and later sold them, and Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank that handled Adviser (188)'s bid for the trust.

THE number of shops in Britain will fall by 10 per cent during the 1990s as consumer spending continues to concentrate on the larger stores. Verdict Research, the specialist consultant, forecasts.

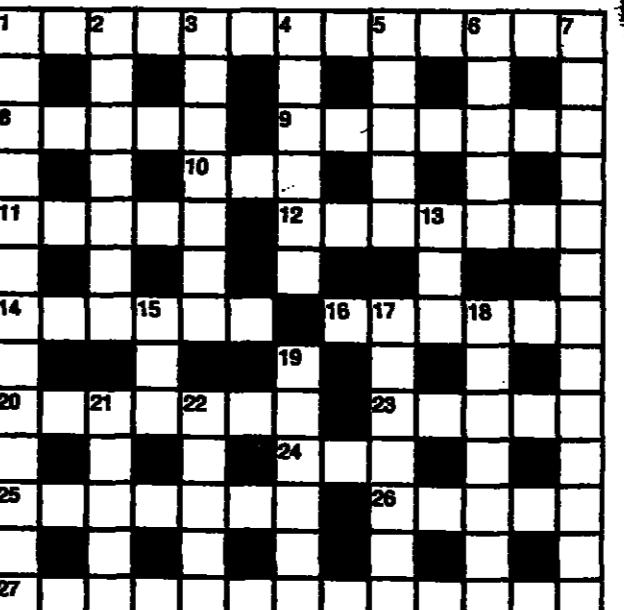
It has analysed the country's excess retail space and concluded that for retailers to return to the boom conditions of 1988, each household would have to spend an extra £250 a year. "This is clearly not going to happen. Our retailers will have to learn to live with overcapacity."

The key measure is real sales, that is excluding inflation, per sq ft of shopping space, which will have fallen by almost 1 per cent by the end of this year, the fourth year of decline, to stand 6.5 per cent lower than in the peak year of 1988. A modest recovery is forecast to start in the last quarter of next year, but even by 1996, real sales per sq ft will still be 1.3 per cent below their 1988 peak.

By the end of the 1990s, the total number of shops is expected to just exceed 250,000, which would suggest a decline of 26,000 over the decade. The fastest-growing sector in terms of floor space, Verdict believes, will be electricals. Variety stores such as BHS, and Marks and Spencer will grow almost as fast. The losers, it says, will be specialist food shops, TV rental businesses, menswear, footwear, furniture, jewellers and off-licences.

*The Space Report, Verdict Research, 112 High Holborn, London WC1V 6JS*

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2964



### ACROSS

- 1 Retribution saying (2,3,2,3)
- 2 Convalesce (3,2)
- 3 In numerical data (7)
- 10 Sesame (3)
- 11 Concrete architect (5)
- 12 Noise blocker (7)
- 14 Interior (6)
- 16 Six singers (6)
- 20 Distant settlement (7)
- 23 Castrated cock fowl (5)
- 24 Mineral springs (3)
- 25 Make eligible (7)
- 26 Stage (5)
- 27 Individualist (13)

### DOWN

- 1 Second great sea (8,5)
- 2 Forehead hair (7)
- 3 More vacant (7)
- 4 Masses (6)
- 5 Foreshadow (5)
- 6 Praise (5)
- 7 Education (13)
- 13 Peace (3)
- 15 Cleopatra snake (3)
- 17 Runaway (7)
- 18 Istanbul palace (7)
- 19 Actual thing (6)
- 21 Great god (5)
- 22 Surpass (5)

### SOLUTIONS TO NO 2963

ACROSS: 1 Reticent, 5 Dhal, 9 Braille, 10 Right, 11 Kef, 12 Lasting, 14 Tavern, 16 Big gun, 19 Ringlet, 21 Gash, 24 Islet, 25 Amateur, 26 Glad, 27 Reveille.

DOWN: 1 Ruby, 2 Thane, 3 Call for, 4 Needle, 6 Hogg, 7 Litigant, 8 Kris, 13 Starving, 15 Vanilla, 17 Inglate, 18 Strafe, 20 Lat, 22 Swell, 23 Tree.

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

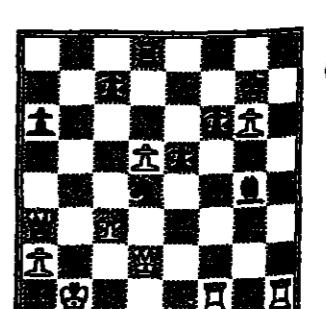
This position is a variation taken from the game Mestel

-Gufeld, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1986/87. How did international grandmaster Edward Gufeld put an end to the struggle?

British grandmasters Nunn and Speelman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings tournament. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0244 442500.

Solution on page 33.

**CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS:** For mail order details of all Time Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with 1000 levels (run on most PCs), call Almon Ltd on 081 832 4575 (24 hr CPS on 0802 890000) - STOP PRESS! just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Crosswords - ring Almon.



By PHILIP HOWARD

**EPOONYMS**

- a. Member of a theatrical dining club
- b. An enthusiastic boozier
- c. A chlorite

**WALSINGHAM**

- a. A spy master
- b. A woolen slipper
- c. The Milky Way

Answers on page 33

## Branch cuts damage banks

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HIGH street banks are inflicting long-term damage on their business by closing hundreds of branches, according to The Boston Consulting Group, the management consultant.

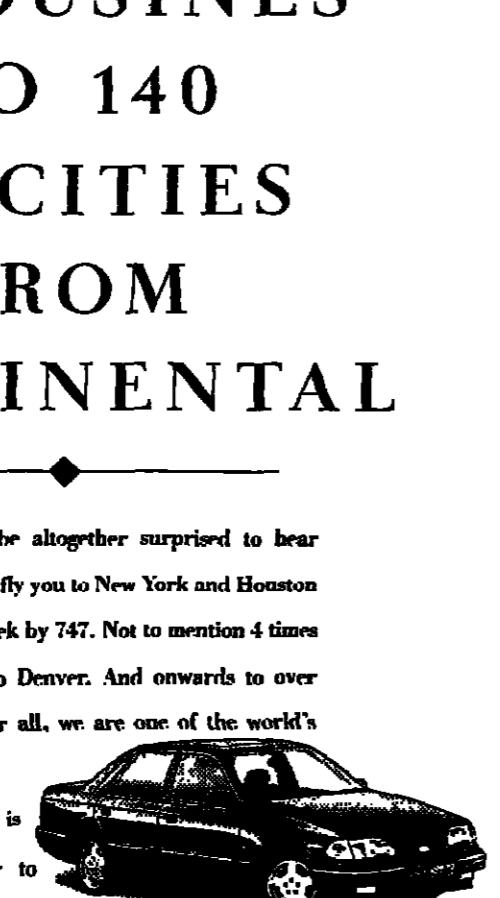
A study, *Retail banking will pruning branches kill the tree?*, argues that banks will save 2 per cent of their annual costs by closing 20 per cent of their network, but will lose up to half the customers of each branch closed. Small branches cost about £30,000 a year to run.

The group also believes the banks, in their closure programmes, are throwing away valuable opportunities

to win customers and sell saving products to branch visitors.

In the past decade, the total of high street bank branches has fallen 18 per cent, from a peak of 10,900 to 8,900. Most of the banks have even more ambitious closure programmes for the next five years. Barclays expects to shut 500 outlets to reduce its network to 1,900. Of the banks, only Midland has admitted that it has gone far enough in its closure programme and that it is now looking for other ways to reduce costs.

The survey shows that bank customers still use their branches regularly, visit-



Showdown with French: Sir Leon Brittan

## Branch cuts damage banks

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HIGH street banks are inflicting long-term damage on their business by closing hundreds of branches, according to The Boston Consulting Group, the management consultant.

A study, *Retail banking will pruning branches kill the tree?*, argues that banks will save 2 per cent of their annual costs by closing 20 per cent of their network, but will lose up to half the customers of each branch closed. Small branches cost about £30,000 a year to run.

The group also believes the banks, in their closure programmes, are throwing away valuable opportunities

to win customers and sell saving products to branch visitors.

In the past decade, the total of high street bank branches has fallen 18 per cent, from a peak of 10,900 to 8,900. Most of the banks have even more ambitious closure programmes for the next five years. Barclays expects to shut 500 outlets to reduce its network to 1,900. Of the banks, only Midland has admitted that it has gone far enough in its closure programme and that it is now looking for other ways to reduce costs.

The survey shows that bank customers still use their branches regularly, visit-

DRUNK  
The br...  
the dri...  
news pt. 1

1

T

Dear

Ind

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1